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LAST ISSUE

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-162
Tuesday
20 August 1996

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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-162 *20 August 1996*

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Aug

LD2008062096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0427 GMT 20 Aug 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 20 (ITAR-TASS) — The continuation of the war in the Chechen Republic is the main topic of today's leading Russian newspapers. The Rossiyskiye Vesti daily prints opinions of statesmen and politicians who know well reasons for the war.

Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov writes: "To my mind, there is no military solution of the Chechen problem. There is only the political way. For this purpose, it is necessary to use wise political measures, giving a chance to meet to the utmost (with preservation of Russia's integrity) demands of all sides participating in the conflict.

"Such work should be planned for many years, but it should be started with introduction of a state of emergency," the minister added.

"In my opinion, a state programme, providing for a set of measures planned not for one or two years but for a long period, should be drafted for that region. It should foresee all problems: political, economic, social, military and issues of security," claimed Russian Defence Minister Igor Rodionov.

"I'm not sure that a man with shoulder straps, a man with a gun can resolve the Chechen problem. The Chechen conflict looks more as a diplomatic rather than military problem. Therefore, it is necessary to combine wisely political deplomacy with demonstration of force," notes member of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) Vladimir Lukin.

"Moscow should recognise at least that there is no legal power in Chechnya. A reference to legality of Zavgayev's power is the prime mistake of the Kremlin. This is just a mirage. Russian soldiers and officers die now in Chechnya only for him.

"Hence, incomprehensible tactics of Kremlin strategists when they speak about a truce in Chechnya, on the one hand, and permit the command of Armed Forces in the republic to conduct military operations," says Ruslan Khasbulatov, head of a consulting group of the Chechen opposition.

"One cannot conduct talks and call his partners bandits. If they are bandits, they should be destroyed or arrested. If they are your partners, talks with them should be conducted as with equals.

"Only a strong political figure, having a chance to govern power-wielding structures, can now realise the president's programme. It is correct that Aleksandr Lebed was given a chance to learn real politics," notes State Duma deputy Andrey Kozyrev, former Russian foreign minister.

"I see a desire to drown Aleksandr Lebed as a politician in the latest developments. I have an impression that some political forces assiduously plant traps to remove him from the political arena," claims Sergey Yushenkov, a State Duma deputy.

In the opinion of the opposition newspaper Pravda, only Chechen rebels win as a result of Aleksandr Lebed's battle in "the Kulikovo field" (Eds: reference to a strife between secretary of the Russian Security Council Lebed and Interior Minister Kulikov).

Writing in the Rossiyskaya Gazeta newspaper, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, press secretary of Boris Yeltsin, refuted an insinuation which appeared in the American Time magazine that the Russian president has to undergo a serious heart operation.

The Izvestiya newspaper devotes its feature to particulars of an escape of seven Russian pilots of the Aerostan air company from Afghan Taliban fighters.

The author of the feature flew to Abu Dhabi together with Russian vice-premier Vitaliy Ignatenko to fetch the flyers and describes, among other things, how talks proceeded with sheikhs on handing over the IL-76 plane crew to Russia.

The same daily claims in another article that the elections of governors will be conducted under the Kremlin's stiff control. Although "the party of power" will not be able to put its people into office everywhere, it does not expect fatal consequences.

Izvestiya failed to contact the editorial office of the Time magazine through the Internet network to learn in detail about an article, describing the need for Yeltsin's heart operation in Switzerland.

Under the headline "'Night hunter' bracing for takeoff", the army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda describes the latest Russian helicopter MI-28H which is unmatched in the world according to its technical parameters.

The opposition newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya features an interview with former Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov who examines events of August 1991 (Eds: Yazov, together with other members of the State Emergency Committee, started an abortive putsch in the country on August 19).

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CIS: Next CIS Summit To Discuss Further Integration

LD1908180596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1727 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Aug 19 (INTERFAX) — The next CIS summit will consider a long-term plan for CIS integration and about a dozen other draft documents in December 1996, according to its draft agenda forwarded to Interfax Monday.

In particular, the agenda envisions a debate on several documents on cooperation in the legal field.

The agenda mentions such documents as a protocol to the Convention of Legal Assistance in Civil, Matrimonial and Criminal Cases of January 22, 1993; treaty on cooperation between CIS law enforcers; convention of mutual recognition and implementation of court decisions on administrative and traffic violations; convention of extradition of the convicted for the service of imprisonment terms; and convention on extradition of mentally ill people for obligatory treatment.

The draft agenda also includes an agreement on the supply of laid-off servicemen with housing in all CIS states.

The military sections include such documents as a declaration on the principles of guarding the external CIS borders; additions to the regulations on the CIS Council of Border Troops Commanders; a decision on the introduction of special signs for CIS border troops commanders; and a list of special cargo and military products to be freely transported throughout the CIS.

The agenda also includes the presence of the CIS Collective Peacekeeping Force in Abkhazia and, possibly, amendments to its status.

The summit will also consider an agreement on the legal status of state representatives and officials of the CIS Interstate Economic Committee, urgent measures to develop the intergovernmental TV and radio broadcasting company Mir and activities to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the CIS.

CIS: Central Asian Troops To Participate in U.S. Maneuvers

LD1708092196 Almaty KARAVAN-BLITS in Russian 8 Aug 96 pp1,3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chirchik [40km northeast of Uzbek capital, Tashkent] — A combined subunit from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan is finishing its training at a military base to take part in the largest tactical training exercises on U.S. territory within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program. From Kazakhstan, servicemen from the motorized rifle unit under Lt. Col. Vadim Us [untraced] will fly straight on to North Carolina on 11 August.

Tactical maneuvers as part of the NATO Partnership for Peace program will start at the Camp Lejune marine base (North Carolina) on the U.S. Atlantic coast. A total of 1,200 soldiers from over 20 countries will take part. There are nine European, three Baltic, six CIS states, and also Canada and the United States. Denmark, the Czech Republic and Azerbaijan will be restricting themselves to roles as observers No representatives of Russia will be coming to the exercises. The official explanation from the Russian General Staff is that the Finance Ministry did not allocate funds, though they are not really so great. However, some observers suggest that Russia's nonappearance at Camp Lejun is due to its disagreement with NATO's expansion to the East.

A combined 60-man platoon of the Central Asian peacekeeping battalion will go to America from our region: one unit each from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Now the soldiers are completing their training for the exercises at the Tashkent Combined Arms Command College training centre near the Uzbek town of Chirchik. They have been here since 22 July. "We have split enough bricks with our heads and our hands," our boys admitted to me, "to build a house." Two U.S. instructors, a sergeant, and an officer from the Marine Corps arrived at the center yesterday to inspect the state of the platoon on the spot. [passage omitted: soldiers' uniforms]

For the moment, during the preparatory training, in terms of training and body size Kazakh soldiers are in a level with Uzbeks, leaving their Kyrgyz neighbors behind somewhat. The Kazakh unit was chosen from the personnel of a company of the Central Asian battalion, which is stationed near Chernyayevka [north of Tashkent], a village on our [Kazakh] side of the Kazakh-Uzbek border; the company, in its turn, was formed on the basis of the Kapchagay landing and assault brigade.

A U.S. Hercules military transport aircraft will leave the military airfield near Tashkent on 11 August. It will take the combined platoon, and our correspondent, too, to the tactical training area. Our soldiers together with other participants in the maneuvers will study in practice the profession of peacekeeper there: how to organize defense of cities and villages in hotspot zones, search and rescue operations, how to set up checkpoints, post patrols and land airborne troops.

The maneuvers will continue until 30 August.

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Russia: Republican Foreign Policy Platform Viewed

MM2008104596 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "Clinton Is 50 Years Old"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington — The U.S. President was 50 on Monday 19 August. In New York, in the festively decorated City Radio Music Hall surrounded by stars from the entertainment world and prominent members of his own Democratic Party, the President combined business and pleasure: He blew out 50 candles at once on his birthday cake and collected several million dollars in subscriptions for his election campaign fund. [passage omitted describing Clinton birthday celebrations]

The president's birthday is only a pleasant excuse for all these meetings. The runup to the elections is over. On Thursday at their convention the Republicans officially named Robert Dole and Jack Kemp as their 1996 leaders. This was the entry into the finishing straight. They will no longer be saving their strength. [passage omitted]

Although the candidate [Dole] did not specify how he will beat Clinton, an idea on the subject is given by the Republican foreign policy program published Sunday. Dole is categorically opposed to Russia occupying a permanent place at the table of the G-7 — the seven most developed democracies of the world. At any rate until "the reforms achieve their aim." He will also begin to build a U.S. antimissile defense from the first day he is in the White House, if that day comes, and Russia will suffer the breakdown of one of its main treaties with the United States.

The program also insists that Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic should be admitted to NATO no later than 1999 while the agreements with North Korea which the United States will help in building reactors in exchange for renouncing its own nuclear program were immediately revoked.

Russia: Pilots Who Escaped From Afghanistan To Be Rewarded

LD1908124096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 19 (Itar-Tass) — The behaviour of the seven Russian airmen who escaped from the Taleban captivity in Afghanistan, their endurance, stamina and courage "deserve to be regarded as a feat of valour, the Russian President thinks," Yeltsin's press secretary Sergey Yastrzhembskiy declared today.

Yastrzhembskiy read out a statement which noted that for more than a year, the crew of the Ilyushin-76 aircraft belonging to the Russian airline Airstan were held prisoner by the Afghan opposition group, the Taleban.

Throughout that period, they "could not fail to feel that their native country had not forgotten them and that intensive work was underway to set them free," the statement said.

"On instruction from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a programme of action to ensure the freeing of the Russian people from captivity was worked out from the very beginning. The president issued instructions on the matter to the government and kept an eye on the fulfilment of his instructions," the statement noted.

The press secretary said that "the main efforts were concentrated on bringing pressure to bear on the Taleban by political means. With this in mind, potential of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the influence on the Taleban by the countries and international organisations whose views are heeded in Kandahar, was made full use of."

"The leadership, religious and public organisations and parliamentarians of Tatarstan were also involved in the process of liberation of the compatriots," the statement said.

It further noted that Boris Yeltsin responded immediately to the news of the Russian airmen escaping from captivity, and a decision was made to send the President's special envoy, Vice-Premier Vitaliy Ignatenko and a special plane of the Ministry for Emergencies to Abu Dhabi.

"Diplomatic problems relating to the landing of a Russian aircraft in the United Arab Emirates were quickly settled. The President of Russia expresses sincere gratitude to the leadership of that country for their understanding of the situation and assistance in the reception of the Russian airmen," the statement said.

The statement also said that the crew would return to Moscow in a week's time. "The feat of the Russian airmen deserves to be rewarded," the statement stressed.

Russia: Aircraft Contracts Signed With Egypt, Iran

MM1908115096 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 4

[Report by Oleg Bedula: "We Have a Contract!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government has adopted a decision on the additional attraction of $30 million within the framework of the contract between

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Samara's "Aviastar" joint-stock company and the Egyptian firm Kato Aromatik [name as transliterated] for the construction of Tu-204 aircraft. "Aviastar" will also be exempted from the payment of customs duty, levies, and taxes for the aeroengines, subassemblies, and components for the aircraft supplied from abroad. Under the contract the Samara workers are to build 30 Tu-204 aircraft for the Egyptians.

Contacts with a foreign partner have also been set up at another well known Samara firm — "Aviakor." Marasha [name as transliterated], a member of parliament and adviser to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and "Aviakor" leader Khasis have put their signatures to a contract whereby 12 Tu-154M aircraft will be delivered to Iran. The total cost of this contract is in excess of $100 million.

Russia: Ukraine Converting Naval Schools for Civilian Purposes

MM1908134596 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Pasyakin: "How They 'Split' the Atom. The Unenviable Fate of Two Higher Naval Schools in Sevastopol Handed Over to Ukraine During the Division of the Black Sea Fleet"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Many officer cadets of the Black Sea Higher Naval School and the Sevastopol Higher Naval Engineering School, who do not want to abandon their dream of the sea and naval service, have not taken the Ukrainian oath and have transferred to Russian higher naval schools. The mass media have also carried reports on the plundering of the schools which have been merged to form the Ukrainian Naval Institute, the pilfering of materials, and the graduates for whom there were no places on ships and craft of the Ukrainian Navy. But the most unenviable fate awaited the nuclear specialists who graduated from the former Sevastopol Higher Naval Engineering School after the disintegration of the USSR and found no work for themselves in their native land.

The Ukrainian Navy does not have any nuclear ships which is why the nuclear reactor and the Higher Naval Engineering School's unique training facilities linked to it have been left largely unused. However, the educational complex with the submarine nuclear reactor was very necessary to the Russian Navy. Then it came to light that the Ukrainian Government had adopted a decree to set up a nuclear power engineering and industry institute in Sevastopol based on the former Higher Naval Engineering School where there were departments of the Ukrainian Naval Institute in recent years. The new higher educational institution will train cadres for Ukraine's civil nuclear engineering industry.

Vice Admiral, Retired, Ashot Arakelovich Sarkisov, academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences who was for a long time head of the Higher Naval Engineering School and is well-known in the world of nuclear scientists and among Russian Navy men, now comments on this event.

The people who made the decision to set up the new higher educational institution knew that Ukraine will not have a nuclear submarine fleet for a long time to come but nevertheless did everything possible to take over the only school of its kind, Ashot Arakelovich said. For Russia this is a great loss. Certain difficulties will have to be overcome in order to properly organize the training of nuclear submarine officers at the naval schools in St. Petersburg.

As for the conversion of the former Sevastopol Higher Naval Engineering School to train nuclear power station engineers, the academician said this: "It would be a profound mistake to think that they can achieve the desired result simply by a change of title. A nuclear submarine engineer and a nuclear power station engineer are specialists of an entirely different kind."

Rear Admiral Aleksandr Aladkin, deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet for maintenance and repair, who is a graduate of this school, agrees with him and believes that the higher educational institution cannot be converted painlessly. It will be necessary to scrap some departments and replace them with newly created and highly specific structures.

This kind of reorganization will be a major blow to a considerable proportion of the Ukrainian Naval Institute's professors and teaching staff, not to mention commanders. At the same time it will necessitate considerable financial expenditure. But evidently the Ukrainian state has no other way out. That being so, the remnants of the once unique school with its unique training facilities will undoubtedly cease to exist once and for all. But whether a new fully-fledged higher educational institution will be formed in its place — well, that is another question.

Russia: Belarusian Air Defense Forces Units To Exercise in Russia

MM1908142196 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev: "The Training Ground Is Russian, the Missilemen Are Belarusian"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Trainloads of military equipment and servicemen headed from Belarus to Russia 16

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August. Subunits of two brigades — antiaircraft missile and radio engineering — of the republic's Air Defense Forces are on their way to the Russia's Ashuluk training ground, where they are expected to hold combat fire exercises. This is far from being an ordinary event for the Belarusian national Armed Forces. The point is that Belarus has no training grounds of its own that would enable it to launch real long-range antiaircraft missiles. Ever since the creation of their own army in 1992, the Belarusian missilemen have had no such opportunity. Needless to say what this means. Now things have finally started moving.

In conformity with the accord, signed in February 1996 by the heads of the Russian and Belarusian military departments, the Belarusian side has been given access to Russian missile training grounds. Apart from that, the Russians have made a commitment to provide the necessary assistance in organizing and holding combat fire practice, including the provision of remote-controlled targets. To put it differently, they will service Belarusian air defense units like their own.

As Lieutenant General Valeriy Kostenko, commander of the Belarusian Air Defense Forces, told KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent, it had taken the personnel that had left for the Ashuluk training ground several months to prepare for the mission. The necessary theoretical and practical sessions had been conducted and examinations taken. There was no need to put pressure upon the people, said the general, as everybody worked with great enthusiasm and dedication. No wonder: Not just soldiers and sergeants, but even many officers have not yet seen their formidable weapons in action. As they say, everybody is full of determination not to disgrace himself before the Russian comrades in arms and to show what he is worth.

The Belarusian subunits will stay at the missile training ground until the beginning of September. It is expected that over this period of time they will carry out several launches of the S-300 antiaircraft missile. Soldiers of the radio engineering brigade will also receive practical training. The sessions will be supervised by Lieutenant General Valeriy Kostenko.

Thus, Russia and Belarus have taken yet another practical step toward creating our states' joint antiaircraft defense system.

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Visits Valday for Assessment as Vacation Spot

LD2008090296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0838 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin "has flown to Valday [northwest of Moscow] for two days to see whether it is possible to spend his next vacation there." This information is contained in a statement which ITAR-TASS received today from Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, press secretary of the head of state. The statement has been issued "in connection with the latest conjectures and suppositions which have appeared concerning the whereabouts of the President of the Russian Federation".

The president, together with Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the government "is continuing to be directly involved in the process of forming the Cabinet of ministers," the statement notes. It is expected that Boris Yeltsin will return to Moscow this week and will hold a number of meetings with members of the government, the statement from the president's press secretary also says.

Russia: Spokesman Denies Yeltsin Ill-Health Rumors in TIME Article

LD1908163596 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Aug 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Summary] The "Segodnya" newscast broadcast at 1500 GMT on 19 August contained the following excerpt from President Yeltsin's Press Secretary Sergey Yastrzhembskiy's news conference on 19 August denying the Yeltsin ill-health story carried in TIME magazine:

"In actual fact, the president is staying not far from Moscow. He frequently works in the Kremlin itself, as you know perfectly well. He spends many hours each day on documents. He decides matters of the greatest importance by telephone. At the same time, as we have already told you, the president is undergoing routine clinical tests and is preparing for his regular holiday. The president's plans do not include any trips abroad or visits to foreign states."

Russia: Commentary on TIME Article on Yeltsin Plans for Surgery Abroad

MM1908140996 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by Stepan Kiselev and Konstantin Eggert: "Kremlin Rejects TIME Magazine's Diagnosis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An urgent operation in a clinic in Switzerland offers the only possibility of President Boris Yeltsin's recovering from the grave condition he is in.

That is the assertion of America's TIME magazine, based on a medical report obtained, according to the editorial office, from a reliable source. TIME writes that V.S. Dubrovin, head of the group of doctors observing the president, notes that the ischemic disease that Yeltsin is suffering from deteriorated sharply in mid-June. Citing contacts in circles close to the presidential security service, the publication reports that the deterioration took place for two reasons: Yeltsin stopped taking some of the prescribed medicines and resumed using alcohol. As a result not only the heart and the left hemisphere of the brain were affected [sentence as published].

The president's health has deteriorated to such an extent, TIME asserts, that the Kremlin is seriously considering the possibility of secretly taking the Russian head of state to Switzerland for an operation. In the opinion of American doctors whom TIME consulted, the patient's condition requires angioplasty — the replacement of the main arteries with artificial ones.

A call to TIME's Moscow bureau produced no results. The secretary explained that there are no correspondents at work, they are on vacation. The magazine will arrive by mail later, and the bureau does not have an electronic version of the article. Our attempt to contact the magazine's data base on the Internet ended in failure — TIME magazine's computers would not answer IZVESTIYA's inquiries.

The Kremlin, as was to be expected, did not confirm TIME's information, although it did reject it absolutely categorically. [sentence as published] At a briefing on Monday [19 August] the president's press secretary Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, displaying the art of diplomacy, told journalists that:

— at the moment the president is not far from Moscow,

— Boris Yeltsin works with documents for several hours a day,

— he is not planning to visit any foreign countries in the near future,

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— systematic outpatient observation of the president's health is currently taking place.

Concerning the secret report cited by TIME, the press secretary stated that he has no information on this score. In answer to a question from journalists on the publication of a final report [itogovogo dokumenta] on the president's state of health, Yastrzhembskiy reported that such information will be made available to the press. And finally, in answer to a direct question from journalists on how the president looks, the press secretary only repeated once again that "Boris Yeltsin is doing a lot of work" and "his handshake is very firm."

Russia: Yeltsin Orders Troop Withdrawal From Chechnya by 1 Sep

LD1908123596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 19 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Press secretary Sergey Yastrzhembskiy has disclosed that, in accordance with the Russian president's instructions to the secretary of the Security Council, the phased withdrawal from the Chechen Republic of the temporary forces and materiel which took part in maintaining constitutional order in the republic, must be completed by 1 September.

Russia: Chechen Leader Zavgayev Meets Chernomyrdin, Lebed in Moscow

LD1908164896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 19 (Interfax) — Doku Zavgayev, Moscow-backed head of Chechnya, met with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Russian Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed in Moscow on Monday, sources close to Zavgayev told Interfax.

Problems regarding a settlement of the Chechen conflict were considered during the meeting, the same sources said.

Russia: Lebed To Fly to Groznyy 21 Aug

LD2008095696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0925 GMT 20 Aug 96

[By Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 20 (Itar-Tass) — Russian security chief Aleksandr Lebed plans to fly to Groznyy on Wednesday [21 August], an insider in the Russian Security Council told Itar-Tass today.

He said Lebed would go "for taking emergency measures to relieve the extreme tension which has arisen there over the recent days".

The source also said Lebed is still adhering to his view that military methods cannot resolve the Chechnya crisis.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Meets Deputies To Discuss Cabinet Work Schedule

LD1908180096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1532 GMT 19 Aug 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin early on Monday held a meeting of his deputies to discuss the schedule of work by a new cabinet.

Yeltsin's former top aide Viktor Ilyushin, now first deputy premier, was also involved in the meeting, Ilyushin's first appearance in his official capacity since the end of his holidays, government sources told Interfax. His area of responsibility covers social security issues.

Others involved include First Deputy Prime Ministers Aleksey Bolshakov and Vladimir Potanin and other deputy premiers.

Dr Vladimir Fortov has taken the last vacant post of deputy premier. He was also appointed in charge of the state committee for science and technologies.

IF Note: 50-year old Fortov, born in the town of Noginsk, Moscow region, graduated from the Moscow Institute for Physics and Technologies with a degree in thermo-and-aerodynamics in 1968. He worked as department chief of the USSR Academy of Sciences' Institute for High Temperatures between 1986-1992 and as head of the Institute's Center of Thermal Physics until his appointment in charge of the Russian Foundation of Fundamental Research in 1993. He has been deputy secretary of the Academy's department for physico-technical problems of energy since 1995. Fortov has a number of state awards.

Potanin is also expected to replace Vladimir Kadannikov as head of the government task force for payment crisis, a post the latter took over this spring following the dismissal of Anatoliy Chubays.

The commission is intended to tackle issues such as how to clear the tax debt to the federal budget, normalize financial relations between enterprises and regulate the circulation of bills of exchange.

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Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aleksandr Livshits will replace Kadannikov as head of the tax legislation commission since Livshits will also be responsible for tax policy issues in the new government.

The tax legislation commission set up this spring has met only twice since, but both meetings were given wide media coverage.

The two commissions are expected to hold meetings in ten days or so, a government source told Interfax.

President Boris Yeltsin is expected to appoint head of the newly-established industry ministry incorporating the now-abolished committees for steel, industrial policy, engineering and chemicals.

Vsevolod Generalov, deputy head of the now-defunct steel committee, says the new minister must be a specialist in the heavy industry. He says the new ministry's functions must be widened to allow it not only to coordinate but also influence industrial operations in the related sectors.

Generalov says the ministry may be more successful in lobbying sectoral decisions in Moscow.

He reckons it will take at least two months to form the new ministry. In the meantime, the former committees are expected to sum up the results of their work.

Russia: Spokesman Says Lebed, Kulikov To Retain Positions

LD1908122196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1127 GMT 19 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Russian Security Council and the president's aide for national security questions, and Army General Anatoliy Kulikov, Russian minister of internal affairs, are to retain their pre-existing powers. This was stated today at a briefing in the Kremlin by Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, the head of state's press secretary, replying to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

He said that on 18 August Boris Yeltsin signed two instructions to Aleksandr Lebed concerning questions of a settlement to the Chechen conflict. By these instructions, according to Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, Boris Yeltsin "urges Aleksandr Lebed to get down to real, serious work within the framework of the unprecedented powers given to him to settle the Chechen crisis."

The first instruction directs the Security Council secretary, in accordance with the Russian president's decree of 14 August and in furtherance of the Moscow and Nazran agreements, to restore the system of law and order on the territory of the Chechen Republic and its capital, Groznyy, as it was prior to 5 August. This means the unblocking of state establishments, military units, and road blocks, as well as an end to combat operations and the resumption of peace talks. A plan for a future settlement to the crisis on the territory of Chechnya is due to be presented to the president no later than by 26 August.

In accordance with the second instruction, the press secretary said, the Security Council secretary is directed, in connection with the abolition of the State Commission for a Settlement in Chechnya, to present to the president well-grounded proposals on the degree of responsibility of official functionaries for the events in the Chechen Republic for the period commencing 6 August. As Sergey Yastrzhembskiy noted, until the fulfillment of these instructions of the president "there should be no discussion of the degree of responsibility of any individuals as occurred at Aleksandr Lebed's press conference on Friday."

Russia: Lebed Denies Presenting Yeltsin With Ultimatum

LD1908133996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 19 (Interfax) — Aleksandr Lebed, Russian Security Council secretary and presidential envoy in Chechnya, has denied that his recent call on President Boris Yeltsin to "choose" between him and Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov was an ultimatum to the president.

"Some of the media has speculated that I have provoked a scandal because, as it believes, I have realized that I will not manage to settle the Chechen conflict and have decided to step down myself while banging slamming door, the presidential one," Lebed said in a statement received by Interfax on Monday.

"I will only reply that those who considered my statement to be an ultimatum to the president seem to have forgotten that I have accumulated good experience in the army and remember who is the country's supreme commander-in-chief," he said.

"If the president decides that both myself and Kulikov should stay, we will seat ourselves at a table for talks not at the Interior Ministry's board but in the presence of the president, the prime minister or in the worst case just both of us," Lebed said.

"We will then try to decide how we will continue to work together," he said.

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"A settlement of this bloody slaughter is more important than my personal ambitions or Kulikov's ambitions or somebody else's ambitions," Lebed said.

"I am not going to 'wash my hands.' The settlement in Chechnya will be continued regardless of anything," he said.

"It is nonetheless necessary to understand who is specifically responsible for the penetration of separatist militants into [the Chechen capital of] Groznyy and their unleashing active combat actions which killed 265 Russian federal troops and wounded over 1,000 Russian troops," he said.

"I believe that Kulikov is responsible for this," Lebed said, adding that he thought the interior minister responsible for the failure to implement the presidential decisions regarding a settlement of the Chechen crisis.

"If I am wrong let the president decide on this. In any case, the period of irresponsibility is over. It is high time one began working and became accountable for the consequences of what one is doing. This should apply to everyone. I think the president will support me on this question," Lebed said.

He spoke out in favor of continuing to settle the Chechen conflict "despite anybody's personal ambitions, including my ambitions, those of Maskhadov, Basayev, Kulikov, Zavgayev or anybody else."

"The lives of people are more precious than ambitions," Lebed said.

Russia: Suppositions of Surveillance Over Lebed Staff Denied

LD1908154096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1524 GMT 19 Aug 96

[By Andrey Galkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 19 (Itar-Tass) — Acting head of the Russian Interior Ministry anti-Mafia department Vladimir Gordienko told reporters on Monday that Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed's suppositions that his staff were under surveillance were groundless.

Lebed said in a recent interview his personnel were under surveillance.

According to Gordienko, the Russian security chief might have had such an impression "by sheer coincidence." Moscow police had been carrying out an anti-Mafia operation since July 8 against "a citizen suspected of embezzlement," he said.

Policemen engaged in the operation tracked him down in the restaurant Robin Hood where Lebed's guards were at the moment. They "thought it was they who were kept under surveillance," he said.

On July 18, all documents about the operation were submitted to the guards of the Security Council, and the incident seemed to have been exhausted, he said.

"The suspected citizen has been arrested" according to him.

Russia: DPR Leader Glazyev Appointed to Security Council

LD1908122996 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1103 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Glazyev, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR], has been given a high post in the Security Council of the Russian Federation.

The DPR leader will lead the Economic Security Directorate, Sergey Glazyev's press secretary, Igor Gansvind, told Ekho Moskvy radio station.

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Edict on Federal Organs of Executive Power

MM1608133996 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Aug 96 p 7

[Edict No. 1176 "On the System of Federal Organs of Executive Power," signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin, Moscow, on 14 August 1996]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the purpose of determining a rational structure for federal organs of executive power and in accordance with Article 112 of the Russian Federation Constitution I decree that:

1. Russian Federation ministries (federal ministries) and other federal organs of executive power — Russian Federation state committees, Russian federal services, Russian agencies, and Russian federal supervisory authorities — are part of the Russian Federation system of federal organs of executive power.

2. A Russian Federation ministry is a federal organ of executive power which implements state policy and carries out management in a specified sphere of activity and also coordinates the activity of other federal organs of executive power in that sphere. A ministry is headed by a Russian Federation minister (federal minister) who is a member of the Russian Federation Government.

A Russian Federation state committee is a federal organ of executive power which carries out, on a collegial basis, intersector coordination on questions which fall within its jurisdiction and also carries out functional

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regulation in a defined sphere of activity. A Russian Federation state committee is headed by a Russian Federation state committee chairman.

A Russian federal service, a Russian agency, and a federal supervisory authority are federal organs of executive power which carry out special (executive, monitoring, authorizing, regulating, and other) functions in prescribed spheres of jurisdiction. A Russian federal service is headed by a federal service leader, a Russian agency — by a Russian agency director, a Russian federal supervisory authority — by a Russian federal supervising authority chief.

Federal organs of executive power are created solely with the designation and status envisaged by this edict. No other status may be granted them.

2. The creation, reorganization, and winding up of federal organs of executive power is carried out by the Russian Federation president on the proposal of the chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

Statutes on federal organs of executive power subordinate to the Russian Federation president pertaining to questions placed within his sphere of competence by the Russian Federation Constitution are ratified by the Russian Federation president, while statutes on other federal organs of executive power are ratified by the Russian Federation Government.

The maximum number and the labor remuneration fund of workers of the central apparatus and the territorial organs of federal organs of executive power are ratified by the Russian Federation Government.

3. Federal ministers are appointed to and released from their posts by the Russian Federation president on the proposal of the chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

Deputy federal ministers are appointed to and released from their posts by the Russian Federation Government.

Chairmen of Russian Federation state committees, leaders of Russian federal services, general directors of Russian agencies, and chiefs of Russian federal supervisory authorities and their deputies are appointed to and released form their posts in accordance with a specially established procedure.

The rights of the officials mentioned in this point are determined in accordance with established legislative procedure according to the posts. They may not be equated with higher posts in terms of the rights attaching to such or in the conferment of official rank.

4. Territorial organs of federal organs of executive power are created by federal organs of executive power on the authorization of the Russian Federation Government for the exercise of the aforementioned organs' powers in the regions.

The creation, reorganization, and winding up of territorial organs of executive power and the appointment to and removal from posts of their leaders are carried out by the appropriate federal organ of executive power after consultation with the organs of executive power of the components of the Russian Federation.

The upkeep of the territorial organs of federal organs of executive power is financed out of federal budget resources earmarked for state management except for the territorial organs of federal organs of executive power financed out of different budget items.

5. The Russian Federation Government is to submit proposals to bring the Russian Federation president's legal acts into line with this edict.

6. This edict is enacted on the day of its signature.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow 14 August 1996

Russia: Yeltsin Edict Reorganizes Executive Organs' Structure

MM1608140396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Aug 96 p 7

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1177, "On the Structure of the Federal Organs of Executive Power," signed by President Yeltsin in the Kremlin, Moscow, 14 August 1996]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with article 112 of the Russian Federation Constitution, I decree that:

1. The attached structure of the federal executive organs be ratified.

For the formation of the aforementioned structure it is necessary:

a) to form:

the Russian Federation Ministry of General and Vocational Education on the basis of the Russian Federation Ministry of Education and the Russian Federation State Committee for Higher Education, which are to be abolished;

the Russian Federation Ministry of Industry on the basis of the Russian Federation State Committee for Industrial Policy, the Russian Federation Committee for Machine Building, the Russian Federation Committee for Metallurgy, and the Russian Federation Committee

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for the Chemical and Petrochemical Industry, which are to be abolished;

the Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources and the Russian Federation State Committee for the Protection of the Environment on the basis of the Russian Federation Ministry of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Russian Federation Committee for Water Resources, and the Russian Federation Committee for Geology and the Use of Natural Resources, which are to be abolished;

and the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor and Social Development on the basis of the Russian Federation Ministry of the Social Protection of the Population, the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor and the Russian Federal Employment Service, which are to be abolished;

b) to transform:

the Russian Federation Ministry of Health and the Medical Industry into the Russian Federation Ministry of Health with the questions of the medical industry to be transferred to the Russian Federation Ministry of Industry;

the Russian Federation Ministry of Science and Technical Policy into the Russian Federation State Committee for Science and Technologies;

the Russian Federation State Committee on Antimonopoly Policy and Support for New Economic Structures into the Russian Federation State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy;

the Russian Federation Patents and Trademarks Committee into the Russian Patents and Trademarks Agency;

the Federal Commission on the Securities Market into the Russian Federation State Committee for the Securities Market;

the Russian Federation Federal Energy Commission into the Russian Federal Energy Service;

c) to abolish:

the Russian Federation Ministry of Education;

the Russian Federation Ministry of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources;

the Russian Federation Ministry of the Social Protection of the Population;

the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor;

the Russian Federation Interim State Committee for the Elimination of the Consequences of the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict of October-November 1992;

the Russian Federation State Committee for Military-Technical Policy with its functions transferred to the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations;

the Russian Federation State Committee for Higher Education;

the Russian Federation State Committee for Industrial Policy;

the Russian Federation State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision with its functions transferred to the Russian Federation Ministry of Health;

the Russian Federation Committee for Water Resources;

the Russian Federation Committee for Geology and the Use of Natural Resources;

the Russian Federation Committee for Precious Metals and Stones with its functions transferred to the Russian Federation Ministry of Industry and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance;

the Russian Federation Committee for Machine Building;

the Russian Federation Committee for Metallurgy;

the Russian Federation Committee for Trade with its functions transferred to the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations;

the Russian Federation Committee for the Chemical and Petrochemical Industry;

the Russian Federation State Messenger Service and the Russian Federation Federal Postal Service with their functions transferred to the Russian Federation Ministry of Communications;

the Russian Federal Highways Service, the Russian Federal Maritime Fleet Service, and the Russian Federal River Fleet Service with their functions transferred to the Russian Federation Ministry of Transport;

the Russian Federal Employment Service;

the Russian Federal Service for Currency and Export Controls and the Russian Federal Service for the Oversight of Insurance Activity with their functions transferred to the Russian Federation Finance Ministry;

the Russian Federal Service for the Preservation of Cultural Assets with its functions transferred to the Russian Federation Ministry of Culture;

the Russian Federation Federal Commission for Lotteries and Gaming with its functions transferred to the Russian Federation State Committee for Physical Culture and Tourism;

the Federal Commission for Real Estate and Property Valuation with its functions transferred to the Russian

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Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property;

the Russian Federation Government State Grain Inspectorate with its functions transferred to the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food;

d) to rename:

the Russian Federation Higher Certification Committee as the Russian Federation State Higher Certification Committee;

the Russian Federation Committee for State Reserves as the Russian Federation State Committee for State Reserves;

the Russian Federation Committee for Youth Affairs as the Russian Federation State Committee for Youth Affairs;

the Russian Federation Committee for Land Resources and Land Management as the Russian Federation State Committee for Land Resources and Land Management;

the Russian Federation Committee for Cinematography as the Russian Federation State Committee for Cinematography;

the Russian Federation Committee for the Press as the Russian Federation State Committee for the Press;

the Russian Federation Committee for Fishing as the Russian Federation State Committee for Fishing;

the Russian Federation Committee for Standardization, Metrology, and Certification as the Russian Federation State Committee for Standardization, Metrology, and Certification;

the Russian State Archive Service as the Russian Federal Archive Service;

the Russian Federation State Taxation Service as the Russian Federal Taxation Service;

the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service as the Russian Federal Foreign Intelligence Service;

the Russian Federation Federal Border Service as the Russian Federal Border Service;

the Russian Federation Federal Security Service as the Russian Federal Security Service;

the Russian Federation Federal Railroad Troops Service as the Russian Federal Railroad Troops Service;

the Russian Federation Federal Tax Police Service as the Russian Federal Tax Police Service;

the Russian Federation Federal Protection Service as the Russian Federal Protection Service;

the Russian Federation Federal Service for the Regulation of Natural Monopolies in the Communications Sphere as the Russian Federal Service for the Regulation of Natural Monopolies in the Communications Sphere;

the Russian Federation Federal Service for the Regulation of Natural Monopolies in Transport as the Russian Federal Service for the Regulation of Natural Monopolies in Transport.

2. To establish that the chairman of the Russian Federation Government has 11 deputies including three first deputies;

3. To ensure the coordinated work of the federal executive organs on questions regarded as a joint sphere of activity, federal ministries are empowered with the coordination of certain federal executive organs in accordance the structural scheme ratified by the Russian Federation Government.

4. The Russian Federation Government is to ensure the regulation of the composition of the territorial organs of the federal executive organs. Particular attention must be paid in this regard to preventing duplication and parallelism between the activity of the federal executive organs' territorial organs and the executive organs of the Russian Federation components and the clearer demarcation of their functions and powers.

5. The Russian Federation Government must:

establish the functions and powers of the transformed and newly created federal executive organs and also amplify the statutes on existing organs so as to ensure their implementation of state policy in the prescribed areas of management in conditions of the deepening of the economic reforms and the transition to market management methods;

approve the maximum number and labor remuneration fund of workers of the central apparatuses of the federal executive organs and territorial organs based on the need for the further reduction in the number of state administration workers and ensure the guarantees provided by Russian Federation law for state employees made redundant;

ensure the implementation of liquidation procedures in accordance with the current legislation;

and prepare and submit to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma draft federal laws on amendments to existing legislation connected with the implementation of this Edict.

6. This edict goes into force on the day of its signing.

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[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 14 August 1996
Edict No. 1177

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Edict Designed To Halt Tax Evasion

LD2008091496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0857 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 20 (Interfax) — President Yeltsin Monday signed a decree on improving the collection of income taxes and insurance payments from individuals. The decree is designed to halt tax evasion by companies which avoid taxes by converting their earnings into cash via private bank accounts, head of the Russian government's economic department Mikhail Kopeykin told Interfax. He participated in preparation of the decree within the government's new Headquarters for Stabilizing the Economic Situation in Russia.

According to him, commercial structures have used this method of tax evasion very often.

"This was possible because legislation did not provide for a difference between a private citizen and the individual-entrepreneur, and because the instructions in regard to the collection of income tax from individuals were poorly worked out," Kopeykin said.

The new decree states that income taxes and insurance payments to state off-budget funds will be deducted from all amounts paid to Russian citizens, when funds are transferred to their accounts and when they receive cash under any kind of payment document, such as promissory notes or other types of documents envisaging payment to the bearer.

This does not apply to coupon payments received from government savings bonds, Kopeykin said.

For organizations granting loans to their employees taxable profit will be calculated on the basis of interest actually paid, but no lower than the Central Bank refinancing rate, he said.

Military Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Introduces Export Controls on Missile Technology

LD1908123196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 19 (Interfax) — President Boris Yeltsin Monday ordered controls placed on the export of equipment, materials and technologies used in the production of missiles.

The presidential press service says Yeltsin approved a list of equipment and materials to which the export controls are applied. Any deliveries shall require expert studies and government permission. The list is open to amendments.

The president instructed the government to adjust legislation to the decree in the context of Russia's membership in agreements on the non-proliferation of missile technologies and mass destruction arms delivery systems.

The decree invalidated the April 25, 1995, presidential instructions on the matter.

Russia: Rodionov Says Military Reform Contingent on Financing

LD1708124396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1213 GMT 17 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 17 (Interfax) — The pace of Russian military reform will be contingent on financing, Russian Defense Minister Col. Gen. Igor Rodionov told Interfax.

"Such a reform is expensive. It is difficult for the state to find necessary money at present. But it will have to find the money sooner or later," Rodionov said.

"Military reform has become necessary following the demise of the USSR and the collapse of the USSR national defense system which was rather well-developed," he said.

"Radical changes regarding Russia's geo-political and military-strategic situation took place during the last five years. The political system of the state and the economic structure of society have also changed," Rodionov said.

The armed forces are currently seriously under-financed, he said.

Budget funds earmarked for wages to the armed forces' troops and civil personnel in 1996 will suffice only for eight months because the debt for 1995 has not so far been fully repaid, he said.

"Furthermore, the money is being disbursed in an extremely irregular fashion. Instead of disbursing money two times during a quarter, small payments to the army and the fleet were made over 200 times in 1995 and over 130 times during the first half of 1996," Rodionov said.

The president and government are aware of the problems regarding the army's funding, he said, adding that the Russian Security Council would dedicate one of its next sessions to this problem.

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Regarding the situation in Chechnya, the minister spoke out in favor of "a maximum use of opportunities for a political settlement of the conflict."

However, he doubts that it will be possible for Russia to renounce the use of military methods at present.

"The Russian side is meeting the clauses of the agreements honestly, including the provisions concerning troop withdrawal from Chechnya on time. The troop pullout is continuing despite the difficult situation in the Chechen capital of Groznyy," Rodionov said.

Russia: Defense Minister Discusses Pace, Timing of Army Reform

LD1908174696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 19 Aug 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] Russian Defense Minister Col. Gen. Igor Rodionov was speaking on the pace and timing of the country's military reform in an interview with Interfax news agency.

IF: Do you think it is possible to carry out a full-blown military reform amid the country's economic hardships? What areas of the armed forces must be reformed first?

RODIONOV: To begin with, let us make it clear what military reform is all about. The question is not one of reforming the armed forces alone as some people, including senior government officials and politicians, seem to believe.

Military reform is a transformation of the entire defense system, it is a gamut of political, economic, social, legal and other measures to ensure the state's preparedness to defend its sovereignty and integrity. Clearly, any decision making on the implementation of most measures of such scope are beyond the authority of the defense ministry. These are within the authority of Russia's top leadership, including the president and his government.

Now about the necessity and feasibility of military reform in conditions of the current crisis.

True, such a reform is costly, while it is difficult, if not almost impossible, for the state to raise such funds. But it will have to soon or later. And first of all because this has become an objective necessity after the break up of the USSR and its rather balanced defense system, a radical change to Russia's geopolitical and military-strategic positions as well as political and social changes.

I therefore think the question is not one of whether or not such a reform is possible. Any discussion to this end is out of place, what is needed is to get the job done. The question is one of the pace and timing alone, but these are mostly constrained by a lack of funding, which is grossly insufficient.

For example, if pay arrears for 1995 are cleared, this year's budget allocations intended as salaries for the servicemen and army-related civilian personnel will meet only eight months of the armed forces' needs. If these sums are made available erratically. Instead of making the money available twice in four months as it must be, the pay to the army and navy was made available in small sums over 200 times in 1995 and more than 130 times in the first quarter of 1996.

The president and government are well aware of the funding problem, which will dominate the agenda of one of the next Security Council meetings.

But despite the gross underfunding, much is being done even today. Under a presidential decree, a Defense Council was formed. An improvement is under way of the system of combat duty in all three arms. Whatever effort is possible is taken to try to resolve the problem of social security nets to servicemen.

IF: Russia now has two bodies which are responsible for defense and security matters: the defense council and security council. Which of them, do you think, must be directly responsible for implementing military reform and does the defense ministry come as far as the reform is concerned?

RODIONOV: The creation of the defense council is an important step in implementing the military reform, and first of all, in improving the state system of military management.

As the country's supreme military commander, the president has created a new management structure to help solve both routine and longer-range defense-related problems.

But in my opinion, there is no duplication of functions of the existing Security Council as some hastened to say. The Security Council has to solve a wider range of matters than defense security as such.

If so, I think military reform issues will surface more often and in a coherent form on the agenda of Defense Council meetings.

In my view, the Defense Ministry will be working hand in hand with the Defense Council in fleshing out and implementing key decisions as well as putting those, which related to the army and navy, firmly in place.

IF Note: Media reports say the defense department faces a big shake-up following the appointment of the new

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defense minister. Are you planning any reshuffle in the top ministry leadership?

RODIONOV: Resolving personnel issues is the duty of the commander or chief of any rank. By definition, I am also handling such issues. And even more so, given the president's recent decision to dismiss a number of generals holding high-ranking posts.

A number of key posts are now vacant in the defense ministry and the general chief of staff. Competent and forceful military leaders are being selected for these posts.

The tasks, facing the armed forces now, place the need for a new level of professional skills and responsibility and consequently, for a measured approach to resolving personnel issues, including the ministry leadership. That is why I do not take any sudden, let alone hasty decisions, in such an important business.

IF: Each country has its own method of determining the strength of the its armed forces. How big, do you think, the Russian army should be to be able to ensure national security? What sort of calculations do you go by?

RODIONOV: To begin with, the numerical strength of the armed forces, their weapons and supplies should be in line with the country's economic possibilities. Otherwise, we will be in the same mess when there is not enough money even for a serviceman's salary. That is why there must be further cutbacks both in the army and navy.

Nonetheless, we must retain the country's nuclear deterrence and ensure a comprehensive development of its defense-related space programs.

The three arms will be reduced but in a different ratio each depending on the each arm's role and place in the current defense system.

But the final aim is to set up a small, mobile and well-equipped army.

The main aim of the military reform is not only to set up a new army and navy, but also to reorganize the entire defense system, including the country's mobilization readiness and ability to build up the peacetime army many times when it is threatened or attacked.

Russia's strength now stands at 1.7 million servicemen.

Russia: General Urges Action To Avert Discontent in Military

LD1908124196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1202 GMT 19 Aug 96

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 19 (Itar-Tass) — Trouble-shooting General Lev Rokhlin today called for the creation of a single coalition body under the President of the Russian Federation to coordinate the activity of all power structures in the country.

Rokhlin said the lack of coordination results in the "dispersion of power" between the Security Council and the Defence Council under the President.

Rokhlin told a press conference in Moscow today that last week's conflict between the National Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed and Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov made manifest the weakness of control over the power structures.

"If Aleksandr Lebed is granted specific powers, there must be no inter-departmental rifts in decision-making on Chechnya," Rokhlin said.

General Rokhlin cited his own experience of the period when he was in command of the northern direction in the Chechen Republic. He said the units under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry often refused to obey his orders.

According to Rokhlin, the settlement of the situation in the Chechen Republic is not a question of relations between the two influential persons in the state but problem of power which must be solved by the president.

Earlier, General Rokhlin said that as a result of insufficient attention to the problems facing the country's armed forces, the situation in them is extremely volatile and can lead to unpredictable consequences.

He pointed to the non-payment crisis as one of the major factors which bred discontent in the ranks. The government owes the armed forces more than 15 trillion roubles, the General said, and the debt keeps growing.

He said 392 soldiers died this year as a result of all sorts of incidents and accidents in the army and the navy. He added that almost one-third of the toll was due to suicide.

General Rokhlin blamed the tragic developments on a dramatic drop in the living standards of the servicemen and the disastrous situation with supplies of all kinds.

"The critical situation which has taken shape in the armed forces requires resolute intervention on the part

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of President Boris Yeltsin, the government and society as a whole," Lev Rokhlin stressed.

He declared that housing was probably the most acute headache: "Because of the unbearable conditions that arose in budget financing, the plan for building housing for this category of the Russian people (servicemen) in 1995 and the first half of 1996 was only 40 percent fulfilled."

According to him, "The number of the servicemen is growing who openly voiced discontent with the substandard material provisions and indignation at the failure to fulfil state guarantees of social insurance and protection of their families."

Rokhlin who heads the lower house committee on defence said, "There are cases of open protest and even of setting up strike committees." He cited concrete examples of acts of protest by servicemen in a number of military districts.

In order to avert "negative consequences of this situation," Lev Rokhlin called for "prompt payment of the debts to the army, revise the budget for the last quarter of 1996 and fix the army budget for 1997 at a level not less than 5.1 percent of the gross domestic product, provide sufficient funds for army reform, and create an efficient body empowered to control all power structures, moderate the ambitions of individual leaders and save material resources within the framework of the state."

Russia: Questions Raised Over Implementation of Edict Cutting Draft

MM2008101296 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 1

[Article by Viktor Sokirko: "In War One Year Will Count As Two"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Get your greatcoat, soldier, and go home. The Russian president has signed an edict providing that the total term of draftees (servicemen on compulsory service) serving amid armed conflicts will be calculated on the basis that one day is equivalent to two. If you have spent a year in Chechnya, you now have every right to demand well-deserved demobilization. If you have spent less time there, get your calculator and work it out — it certainly will be less than two years.

Any edict that does anything to alleviate the military existence of soldiers in Chechnya, who are taking part in combat operations without benefits or privileges, is good news. But how soon and how effectively will it operate? Promises of leave and early discharge also initially warmed the hearts of soldiers and their mothers. But not many soldiers can boast that they have managed to go on leave after combat operations. "My comrade tried for almost a month to get a trip home after he received a telegram saying his mother was seriously ill," a young soldier from the 188th Motorized Infantry Brigade said.

The Defense Ministry explained to us: The presidential edict must be copied by the power ministers, after which it will be "handed down" to the troops. Then career servicemen will start calculating the "combat days" of everyone fighting in Chechnya. "This process will take some time, but if we receive appropriate orders, we will discharge soldiers as instructed," people at the military department say.

I wonder how they will compute the term of service of soldiers of the 176th Regiment, who were being withdrawn to Russia but were taken off their rail cars and sent into battle in Groznyy?

Federal Assembly

Russia: Yabloko Parliamentarian Skeptical of New Government

MK1908072196 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Ivan Rodin: "Yabloko Remains in Constructive Opposition. Vladimir Lukin Regrets That the Government Was Formed According to the Old Soviet Principle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee, who is now acting leader of the Yabloko faction, said in a conversation with your correspondent yesterday that his and his colleagues' attitude to the government remains unchanged: constructive opposition. Commenting on Viktor Chernomyrdin's new cabinet, Mr. Lukin described it as being mainly comprised of "the king's musketeers" and, to a lesser extent, "the cardinal's guards." The deputy believes that the government was formed according to the old Soviet bureaucratic method. Cabinet posts were apportioned on the principle of whether a particular person is "ours" or not. He said that only last Sunday Mikhail Zadornov figured on the list of candidates as the main aspirant for the post of finance minister. Vladimir Lukin noted that the terms set by the Duma finance expert were quite reasonable. For instance, Mikhail Zadornov suggested that since the Finance Ministry is responsible for state expenditures, it should have real influence with the departments in charge of raising revenues for the treasury. Yet, the deputy pointed out, while Zadornov's idea was accepted, an "insider" was preferred over his candidacy. Vladimir Lukin is sure that in present-day Russia the cabinet cannot be based on a coalition; i.e., be a

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kind of miniparliament or discussion club, but at the same time it should not be a government of technocrats implementing some far-fetched projects. According to the International Affairs Committee chairman, "a government needs to be formed that will combine professionalism with a well-defined mandate from political groups, and work out a uniform program." This, the deputy believes, "will enable the government to consolidate and advance its positions in a civil society, giving it a large reserve of time and trust to undertake various measures, including unpopular ones."

Vladimir Lukin is also seriously concerned by another circumstance that manifested itself in the process of the government formation. He fears that having delegated his personal assistants to the government, Boris Yeltsin has strongly bound himself to it, thus limiting his room to maneuver, and so he will have to share responsibility with the government for all its failures and setbacks. Mr. Lukin, by his own admission, has always been against such principles of the organization of the executive branch, which he made known to the president back when the Yegor Gaydar government was being formed. In addition to the general principles of forming the government, Vladimir Lukin also analyzed some of its key figures. For instance, he described First Deputy Premier Aleksey Bolshakov as a symbol of the principles that were used in forming the government: Mr. Bolshakov did not play any visible role in consolidating the integration of the CIS countries, but then he is apparently one of the "cardinal's guards." As concerns Vladimir Potanin, according to Mr. Lukin, the government cannot be regarded as truly pro-market and in tune with the times only because one banker has been included in it, especially since Mr. Potanin is, to all appearances, "the king's musketeer." On the other hand, the advent in the government of Aleksandr Livshits and Viktor Ilyushin, whose previous performance Vladimir Lukin highly appraises, recalls, in his view, the former Soviet practice when a department chief at the CPSU Central Committee was transferred to work in a corresponding ministry. Even so, the acting leader of the Yabloko faction told your correspondent that whatever his comments on the principles of the structural organization of the cabinet or its composition, it needs to be recognized that it has been formed by the force that carried the elections. The government needs to be given "100 days" to determine in which direction it will move. Yabloko's attitude to it, Vladimir Lukin stressed, will depend on the cabinet's approach toward the four following problems: the budget, Chechnya, foreign policy, and reform of the Armed Forces. Thus far, the deputy noted, "while wishing the government well, it needs to be said that chances are that it will not last long in its present shape."

Russia: Federation Council Decree on Abkhazia Peacekeepers

MM2008082596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 4

[Federation Council Decree No. 329, "On the Use of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Contingent in the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict Zone," signed by Ye.S. Stroyev, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council in Moscow, on 8 August 1996]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having examined the Russian Federation president's appeal No. 1720 of 7 August 1996 in connection with Article 102 Part 1, Point "d" of the Russian Federation Constitution and Article 7 of the Federal Law "On the Procedure for Providing Russian Federation Military and Civilian Personnel for Participation in Activity Aimed at Maintaining or Restoring International Peace and Security," the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council resolves:

1. To consent to the use of a Russian Federation Armed Forces contingent of up to 3,000 men within the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone until 31 January 1997 on the condition of this contingent being funded in accordance with Article 15 of the Federal Law "On the Procedure for Providing Russian Federation Military and Civilian Personnel for Participation in Activity Aimed at Maintaning or Restoring International Peace and Security."

2. The Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense Questions is to continue work on analyzing and generalizing the practice of using Russian Federation Armed Forces outside the limits of Russian Federation territory.

3. This decree comes into force from the date of its adoption.

[Signed] Ye.S. Stroyev, chairman of the Russian Federation Federation Assembly Federation Council

[Dated] Moscow, 8 August 1996

Russia: Federation Council Calls For Suspension of Shuttle Trading Decree

MM2008091396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 4

["Appeal to the Russian Federation Government by the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council," signed by the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council in Moscow on 8 August 1996, No. 328: "Senators Support 'Shuttle' Trading"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council, having discussed in ses-

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sion the possible consequences of the implementation of Russian Federation Government decree No. 808 of 18 July 1996 "On the Procedure for the Transfer of Goods Not Intended for Production or Other Commercial Activity by Individuals Across the Russian Federation's Customs Border," believe that this decree does not fully correspond to the complexity of the problem of "shuttle" trading in contemporary Russia, and contains a simplistic approach to the choice of mechanism for solving the problem, effectively reducing it to the use of fiscal funds, and could have serious socioeconomic and political consequences, especially dangerous in the election period now underway in the majority of Russian Federation components.

The Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council appeals to the Russian Federation Government to suspend the aforementioned decree and to continue studying the problem with the aim of elaborating a range of measures to resolve it, and believes it expedient to involve in this work representatives of the legislative and executive organs of power, entrepreneurial circles, and also all interested organizations.

[Signed] Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council

[Dated] Moscow, 8 August 1996

Russia: Duma Appoints Delegates to Interparliamentary Committee

MM2008100396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 11

[Decree No. 584 of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, signed by G.N. Seleznev, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, in Moscow on 18 July 1996: "On Representatives of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma in the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Parliamentary Delegation to the Interparliamentary Committee of the Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, and the Russian Federation" — from the "Economic Union" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decrees that:

The following State Duma deputies are to be appointed Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma representatives in the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Parliamentary Delegation to the Interparliamentary Committee of the Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, and the Russian Federation:

Gennadiy Nikolayevich Seleznev, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma;

Yuriy Pavlovich Kuznetsov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Nationalities Committee;

Yelena Borisovna Mizulina, deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee for Legislation and Judicial and Legal Reform;

Nikolay Sergeyevich Stolyarov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee for International Affairs;

Georgiy Ivanovich Tikhonov, chairman of the State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Links with Compatriots;

Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Tyagunov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Links with Compatriots;

Gennadiy Ivanovich Churkin, chairman of a subcommittee of the State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Links with Compatriots.

[Signed] G.N. Seleznev, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma

[Dated] Moscow, 18 July 1996

Regional Affairs

Russia: Chechen Minister Says Pulikovskiy Aborts Signing of Accord

LD1908171096 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] More than an hour ago a meeting ended between deputies of Aslan Maskhadov, chief of the general staff of Chechen formations, and of General Konstantin Pulikovskiy. The meeting took place at a roadblock between the villages of Novyye Atagi and Shali, Movladi Udugov, minister for press and information in the opposition government, told our radio station. He said all the issues concerning the activity of the joint supervisory commission had been settled in principle. However, he said that problems emerged when it came to the signing of the document.

[Begin Udugov recording] The Chechen side did not expect that General Pulikovskiy would add another point to the provision concerning the activity of this supervisory commission in today's Russian version. He added a paragraph on the withdrawal of the Chechen government [as heard] forces from the city of Groznyy. This is an absolutely illogical paragraph. What does the provision on the activity of the joint supervisory committee have to do with a paragraph on the withdrawal of the Chechen government forces from Groznyy? That is, in this way, General Pulikovskiy has openly aborted the signing of the document today. It is very likely that we

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are in for some exacerbation of the situation in the near future. [end recording]

[Announcer] We do not know anything yet about the Russian stance in this matter. The Chechen opposition has accused the Russian side of preparing wide-ranging provocations. A statement by the federal command about the possible use of force to lift the siege of the federal roadblocks and the commandant's offices in Groznyy was described as one of these provocations. Yandarbiyev's supporters also deny information that fighting took place in Groznyy this afternoon. According to their information, a group of specialists of the Russian counterpropaganda group of the Russian special services are spreading these rumors.

Russia: Pulikovskiy Says Further Negotiations With Chechens 'Futile'

LD2008081096 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Summary] The "Vesti" newscast carries a report on the announcement by General Konstantin Pulikovskiy, acting commander of federal troops in Chechnya, that action will be undertaken soon to clear Groznyy of militants.

In accompanying video, Pulikovskiy is shown addressing journalists. He says: "It is simply futile to continue talking and putting up with things and holding negotiations. All weapons will be brought into play in 48 hours. No civilians must be left behind, don't blame me otherwise."

Russia: Pulikovskiy Says Groznyy To Be Cleared of Militants

LD2008062896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0612 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, August 20 (Interfax) — The acting commander of the federal force in Chechnya Gen. Konstantin Pulikovskiy has declared Groznyy will be cleared of Chechen militants.

"We do not intend to further reconcile ourselves with the brazen and barbarous actions of the unlawful formations that continue shooting down our helicopters, staging daring acts of sabotage and blocking Russian servicemen," he told Interfax Tuesday.

"I see the only way out of the present situation in Groznyy in the use of force," the general said.

He confirmed the intentions of the federal command to use all means at its disposal, including aviation and heavy artillery.

The general said at his orders federal troops have launched local operations to lift the blockade of Russian checkpoints. According to his knowledge, several checkpoints were freed Monday but five remained besieged.

In his opinion it will take at least one month to stamp out militant groups in Groznyy.

The general said he has nothing more to discuss with the separatist military leader Aslan Maskhadov who, according to the commander, is putting forward unacceptable conditions and regards Russia as Chechnya's enemy.

Pulikovskiy said a settlement in Groznyy and the rest of the republic is being negotiated on the federal side by a personal envoy of the Security Council secretary, Sergey Kharlamov.

Russia: Pulikovskiy Asks Population To Leave Groznyy Within 48 Hours

LD1908205996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2031 GMT 19 Aug 96

[By Nikolay Zagnoiko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Aug 20 (Itar-Tass) — The commander of Russian troops in Chechnya, [Lieutenant General] Konstantin Pulikovskiy, issued the following statement on Monday:

"The leadership of illegal armed formations have been trying to seize power in the republic by force since August 6, paying no attention either to casualties or destruction in Groznyy.

"The leadership of illegal armed formations, while negotiating a cease-fire and allegedly seeking to create conditions for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, uses this to build new positions and continue resistance.

"I will cite only some of the facts: the city has been swept by a continuous wave of robberies and violence against the peaceful population. Rebels break into apartments to set up their strongholds and firing emplacements there. There have been cases of brutal killings of Russian residents of the city.

"Near Urus-Martan at 1635 on August 18, a helicopter belonging to federal troops, which was carrying food from Vladikavkaz to Groznyy, was shot down. Rebels have blown up a railway bridge across the river Dzhalka and railway tracks between Gudermes and Khasavyurt in order to disrupt deliveries by railway.

"On August 18, rebels seized the commandant's office in the Staropromyslovsky district by means of deception and acting under the cover of a humanitarian convoy.

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I simply have no more time to enumerate all other violations. Aslan Maskhadov and his entourage have said straightforwardly that they see themselves outside Russia and that they are fighting against Russia and the Russian army.

"Considering the foregoing, I state: the opposition leadership, being true to its tactics, has decided to take hostage not just a group of people, but the population of the entire city in order to dictate conditions to the command of the federal forces.

"That is why, without issuing an ultimatum, I appeal to the peaceful population of the city of Groznyy to leave the city within 48 hours, starting in the morning (Moscow time) of August 20, 1996, through a corridor specially opened for the population by federal forces, via Staraya Sunzha in the direction of Petropavlovskoye and Argun.

"I ask you to use only this route because all other routes have been closed by troops and mined. After the expiration of this period, I reserve the right to use available forces and means, including bombers and fighters, as well as multiple self-propelled rocket launchers and artillery to deliver strikes on rebels and their positions. In that case, all responsibility will lay on the opposition leadership."

Russia: Helicopters Drop Leaflets Urging Civilians To Leave Groznyy

LD1908195996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Aug 19 (Interfax) — Russian helicopters are spreading leaflets all over Groznyy, urging local civilians to leave the city, commander of Russian federal troops in Chechnya [General] Konstantin Pulikovskiy told journalists Monday evening.

Pulikovsky hoped the journalists would help him notify the locals that they should leave.

Pulikovsky said it was hard for him to make the statement and to announce that he would begin large-scale military operations in 48 hours. However, he was confident that the country's leadership and the people will support him, because he will do it in the interests of the state.

Since the enactment of the latest cease-fire, Russian federal troops have not dealt a single strike on the enemy with Uragan and Grad multiple launchers, Pulikovsky said. Only on Sunday, they fired "in the open field" when Chechen separatists pushed federal troops out of the military police office in the Staropromyslovsky district of Groznyy.

Speaking of the reasons for federal troops to use artillery and firearms over the recent days, Pulikovsky said that the cease-fire agreement had a provision enabling the Russians to "take adequate measures," if separatists opened fire at federal positions and convoys.

"This means that the strike will be dealt both on those who carried out the concrete provocation and on the headquarters from which such an order came," Pulikovsky said.

Commenting on the Chechen reports on large-scale operations in Groznyy Monday evening, Pulikovsky said "local clashes rather than large-scale fighting" was under way in the city.

The separatists are trying to block federal outposts, military police offices and government buildings in the center of Groznyy, Pulikovsky said. In addition, Chechen snipers continue to fire on federal positions, he said.

Russia: Zavgayev Opposes Groznyy Ultimatum; Plans To Contact Pulikovskiy

LD2008121196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1153 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 20 (Interfax) — Head of the Moscow-backed Chechen administration Doku Zavgayev at a Tuesday [20 August] news conference in Moscow spoke against the ultimatum put forward by the commander of the federal force in Chechnya Konstantin Pulikovskiy.

The general urged the people of Groznyy to leave the city in 48 hours because after that he promised to launch an operation to clear the Chechen capital of militants.

According to Zavgayev, about 300,000 people remain in Groznyy. "I am against the use of force in the present situation," he stressed.

He also felt 48 hours was too short a time for people to leave their homes. "It is impossible and unthinkable," Zavgayev said.

He promised to contact Pulikovskiy within an hour and take every step to make the commander withdraw his ultimatum.

Russia: Zavgayev Holds News Conference, Says Groznyy 'Paralyzed'

LD2008084396 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen Republic, began a news conference in Moscow

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an hour ago. With the details is our correspondent Vladimir Trushkovskiy.

[Trushkovskiy] Zavgayev said that, at the moment, all the activities of the federal troops to clear the blockade of Groznyy and stabilize the situation in the republic are not having any particular effect. The city is still paralyzed and the main communications — water, electricity, and telephones — are not working. The buildings of the Federal Security Services and the Interior Ministry in the city center are still being held by federal troops. At the present moment the Sunzha water intake, which provides two-thirds of Groznyy with water, has been restored.

About 50,000 inhabitants have now left the city. They are being provided with humanitarian aid via the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations. A mobile hospital has been put up, and a number of others are in the process of being built.

There was firing this morning in the area of Minutka Square and Staropromyslovskiy District.

Regarding Konstantin Pulikovskiy's comments about readiness to carry out a wide-scale combat operation, Zavgayev said that as long as there are innocent civilians in the city, it is impossible to carry out serious fighting, especially as people cannot leave the city in 48 hours. Nor is it possible to inform everyone, so Zavgayev said that he will use every effort to oppose Pulikovskiy's actions.

Russia: Chechnya's Zavgayev Has 'No Intention of Resigning'

LD1908194496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1747 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 19 (Interfax) — The head of Chechnya's pro-Russian government, Doku Zavgayev, said on Monday he had no intention of resigning.

Commenting on criticism leveled at him by the media, he told Interfax he had been elected by Chechnya's population.

"I wasn't appointed from above, and the results of the (December 1995) election were recognized as legitimate," he said.

"If I'm gone, there'll be somebody else, but this won't make the Chechen problem easier to solve. I am not the essence of the Chechen problem, and it's not me that is the source of all the trouble," he said.

Zavgayev said that earlier on Monday he met Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Russian Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed.

He asked Chernomyrdin for social funds for Chechnya's population, because "in spite of everything, people must be paid allowances and pensions, which they haven't been receiving for a long time."

And people should be given not only peace but work as well. "If we don't give people work, the temperature of public discontent will rise, and this will set off a wave of crime," he said. "People's social security — paying them wages, allowances and pensions — will become one of the stabilizing factors in Chechnya. We badly need support from the federal authority."

He said that with Lebed he had discussed the problem of settlement of the conflict and the results of Lebed's talks with separatist leaders during a recent trip the Security Council secretary had taken to Chechnya.

By the time Russian troops leave Chechnya, local pro-Moscow authorities should take control of the situation and ensure security in the region, Zavgayev said.

"I believe the Chechen crisis cannot be resolved by force. I brought my point of view to Lebed's attention, and he is also convinced of this," he said.

He was skeptical about the separatists' "desire for peace" but said that if there was a chance to come to terms with them it should not be missed.

Russia: Maskhadov Rejects Ultimatum for Civilians To Leave Groznyy

LD2008063696 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0600 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Konstantin Pulikovskiy, commander of the joint group of federal troops in Chechnya, has proposed that the population of Groznyy leave the town within 48 hours. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Chechen armed formations are rejecting the commander's ultimatum. We have learned that this was stated by Aslan Maskhadov, head of the main headquarters.

Russia: Chechen Rebels Refuse To Leave Groznyy

LD2008082996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0807 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOUTH CHECHNYA, August 20 (Interfax) — The Chechen separatist command said a withdrawal of militants from Groznyy would complicate the situation and aggravate the position of civilians, the interior minister in the opposition government, Kazbek Makhashev, told Interfax Tuesday.

He said the opinion was expressed to a personal envoy of Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed at a Monday evening meeting.

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According to Makhashev, mutual agreement and understanding was reached only on the issue of a special supervising commission.

As for the withdrawal of militants from Groznyy, the Chechen side said in the present conditions joint control and the formation of zones of responsibility is the only option.

Only after the situation returns to normal and a ceasefire is enforced, the Chechen military leadership is convinced, can a gradual withdrawal of militant formations as well as federal forces from Groznyy become possible.

Simultaneously, Makhashev said control in the responsibility zones would shift to law enforcement bodies.

Russia: Lebed Returns to Chechnya, Meets Yandarbiyev, Maskhadov

LD1908181496 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Aug 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast presented by Aleksandr Shashkov]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few minutes ago, Movladi Udugov, the information and press minister of the government of Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, phoned the "Segodnya" newsroom and said that a meeting is now under way in Chechnya between Aleksandr Lebed, the secretary of the Security Council, and Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the Chechen armed formations. We have not had time to confirm this.

Russia: Lebed Stresses Peaceful Means for Chechnya Settlement

LD1908165196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 19 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Aleksandr Lebed, the Russian president's national security aide and secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, believes that a settlement of the Chechen conflict is possible only through peaceful means. This was the key thesis at today's meeting between Lebed and head of Chechnya Doku Zavgayev, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the end of the meeting by Aleksandr Barkhatov of Lebed's press center.

Barkhatov said that some military men are proposing to stop the talks and start air raids on Groznyy and other places where separatists are located. During the meeting Lebed stressed that "air raids as a military method of resolving the problem—even when civilians are evacuated—leads only to an expansion of the conflict zone."

The press secretary said that during the meeting Doku Zavgayev complained of the lack of funds for the restoration of the republic's economy. But Aleksandr Lebed "made no promises about that, since the question comes exclusively under the jurisdiction of the Russian Government."

At the meeting there was also talk about the organization of the work of the commission attached to the Security Council for material, technical, and financial backing for measures to resolve the crisis and restore the economic and social realm of the Chechen Republic. The press secretary said that Lebed and Zavgayev "discussed the candidature of Aleksandr Livshits, deputy prime minister of the government, for the position of head of the commission."

Russia: Lebed Spokesman Reportedly Meets Maskhadov in Chechnya

LD1908184996 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1833 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Movladi Udugov, the information and press minister of the opposition Chechen government, has told Ekho Moskvy Radio Station that a spokesman for the secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Aleksandr Lebed, arrived in the vicinity of a blockhouse between Groznyy and the village of Novyye Atagi on the evening of 19 August and headed for a meeting with the chief of staff of the opposition armed forces, General Aslan Maskhadov. According to Movladi Udugov, the meeting should take place at about 2200 [1800 GMT].

Russia: Daily: Country's Interests Transcend Officials' Personal Relations

MM2008080596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Boris Yamshanov: "The Kulikov Battle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The question was almost rhetorical. Both the power structures and the public are questing. But the quest has been under way for a long time, and the results are not yet clear. Attempts to find a solution to the conflict by force are only increasing the number of casualties. But even peace talks have led each time to a new spiral of even fiercer fighting.

It seems as though life has convinced us that the question is not so simple. Consequently, Aleksandr Lebed's sensational statement last week that "the war could be stopped in 20-25 minutes" raises some doubts,

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to put it mildly. Or confusion. After all, it would then be permissible to assume that very many people who are well-known in the country and have tried their utmost to solve this vexed problem either are stupid, or were acting contrary to common sense, or had evil intentions.

Aleksandr Lebed stated bluntly in Chechnya that the war has commercial roots and that its culprits are known — but he did not name names on his return to Moscow. Indeed, only one name was named — that of Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov.

Anatoliy Kulikov stated in response that he is ready to resign if the president considers it necessary, and on Saturday he convened a Ministry of Internal Affairs Collegium session, inviting the Security Council secretary to it. Aleksandr Lebed did not attend the collegium session, sending a staffer from his apparatus. Questions directly related to the difficult Chechnya problem were discussed, but the session did not descend into recriminations — the tone was businesslike and quite peaceful.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, as is well known, has instructed Anatoliy Kulikov by telephone to continue exercising his duties as interior minister. Clearly, we will soon discover whether this is a temporary or a final decision. For the time being, the phrase most commonly heard is one thought up or accidentally used by Aleksandr Lebed — "Two birds can't share the same nest."

Aleksandr Ivanovich's metaphorical way of speaking is no longer unusual. But in this instance the metaphor was not successful. Russia is not a nest — as General Mikhail Surkov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, immediately stated. Incidentally, he has considerable personal experience of settling interethnic conflicts.

But even this is not the point. The essence of the conflict is thus, as it were, shifting into the sphere of the personal relationship between two officials. But are not the interests of the country, which both of them are undoubtedly trying to serve, higher than personal liking or enmity?

Aleksandr Lebed's visit to Chechnya has given people great hope that there will be a quick and acceptable end to the bloody tragedy. And although the bloodshed has not been stopped in 20 minutes or even 25 hours — there is still gunfire in Chechnya and people are still being killed — the belief that what was said by this prestigious man is more than just fine words persists. It would be very disappointing if this noble mission were to turn into a banal Kremlin "showdown," consuming the strength of the parties and the parties themselves, and burying people's hopes yet again.

Russia: Groznyy Militants Hope For Lebed's Success

LD2008122696 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Aug 96

[Video report by unidentified correspondent — passages within quotation marks recorded; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy is preparing for war. The federal command's ultimatum will hardly force the separatists out of town. Many of them arrived here from Chechnya's highlands and have spent many a long day on the road.

The opposition is firmly entrenched in the city center. [Video shows militants wearing green headbands, one such interviewed, identified by caption as M. Makhashev, commandant of Shali city]

[Makhashev] "We have more ammunition than when we entered the city. We also have more arms and we have gained a very great deal by way of booty. So far we have had no problems with food or water."

Detachments subordinate to [Aslan] Maskhadov's staff made a corridor available for the Federal Security Service personnel who were under siege in the city center and this shows who really controls the situation in Groznyy. About 50 security service officers left the city on board two vehicles today. No one fired on them. [video shows a tank and two trucks on the move]

Local residents are leaving Groznyy and there are streams of people all over this city, turning into rivers in the suburbs. There are Chechens and Russians there, all refugees. [Video shows people on foot and in trucks]

Only those who have nowhere to go or who cannot leave their homes stay behind. [Video cuts to show two old men]

These two old men, a Chechen on the right and a Russian on the left, are neighbors. The Russian is called Aleksandr Matveyevich Koshek. This is his house. The federal troops tried to use this street, now in the hands of the opposition, to get into town.

[Koshek] "It happened at 0720, when we ventured out for water. Fifteen minutes later a convoy stopped here, in this street. [video cuts to show man carrying a bucket of greenish looking water amid a scene of destruction, burned-out wreckage, projectile on ground] They trained their guns on to the courtyard. What are you doing, boys, I say to them, people live here, you know. And he says to me shut up, he says. Our boys killed two people yesterday, he says, and we will kill you now, too, he says."

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The three old people [video now shows an elderly woman and the two earlier-shown men] are now rummaging in the debris, preparing a new bomb shelter, while the separatists are toing and froing in their vehicles without hindrance, passing by the houses in the city center. [Video shows street scene] They are in resolute mood, but still hope that the federal side will show common sense.

People in Groznyy still believe that they will not be annihilated the way wolves are when penned into an enclosure following a hunt. [Video shows an armed militant speaking to camera, surrounded by other militants]

[Unidentified militant] "Russia had her Kutuzovs and Suvorovs before. Do Russians have no history? Theirs is a history going back ages. They had so many generals, so many. Well, I do not know. Well, they have had their traditions, the Russians, but now, I do not know. Is it that the generals have grown smaller in stature? How can it be that what was signed in Moscow failed to be implemented and what was signed in Nazran was not implemented either, planes are flying, bombing the villages, killing people?

I think that we pin our hopes on [Russian Security Council Secretary Aleksandr] Lebed. We will see whether he measures up to what he says. If so, I will believe in the Russian people.

[Correspondent] "Please introduce yourself.

[Militant, smiling] "I am the Black Sultan."

Russia: Security Council Envoy, Maskhadov Discuss Agreements

LD2008063196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0609 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, August 20 (Interfax) — During a working meeting in Novye Atagi, south of Groznyy, Monday night a personal envoy of the Russian Security Council secretary Sergey Kharlamov and the military leader of Chechen separatists Aslan Maskhadov discussed the enforcement of the Moscow and Nazran agreements signed last May and June.

Sources at the federal command in Chechnya told Interfax Tuesday both sides expressed readiness to continue talks on the peaceful settlement of emerging problems.

Russia: Dagestani Finance Minister Killed in Car Bomb Explosion

LD2008081496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0755 GMT 20 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gadzhi Shamov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Makhachkala, 20 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Dagestani Finance Minister Gamid Gamidov was killed today in a car bomb explosion in Makhachkala. At 0930 Moscow Time eyewitnesses say that a Zhiguli car parked near the main entrance of the republican Finance Ministry flew into the air and disintegrated. The minister was at the entrance at that moment.

Russia: Udugov Says Federal Troops Storm Groznyy 19 Aug

LD1908164496 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1618 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At about 1915 [1515 GMT] on 19 August, federal forces began to storm Groznyy from several directions, Movladi Udugov, the information and press minister of the opposition government of Chechnya, told Ekho Moskvy radio station.

According to him, Russian troops began active offensive operations against Groznyy from the direction of the 15th Cantonment, Khankala, Severnyy Airport, the old airport, and the locality of Tolstoy Yurt and others".

Movladi Udogov said: Fighting is now under way. The offensive in the 15th Cantonment area has been beaten off and, after major losses in armor and manpower, the Russian troops began to retreat. Russian paratroop units were also halted in the area of the tram depot and the railway crossing in the settlement of Michurino where fighting had occurred previously. Several armored groups are trying to break through to the center of Groznyy from the direction of Severnyy and the old airport. Heavy fighting is under way on the approaches to the centre.

The opposition's official spokesman stressed that the Russian command has grossly violated the cease-fire agreement and recommenced the storming of Groznyy, having deceived the public and stocked up on forces and ammunition over the past few days.

Udogov further said: The Chechen leadership takes all responsibility in declaring that the blame for the new escalation in the conflict and the killing of civilians lies with the Russian side and it will bear complete responsibility.

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Economic Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Evens Tax Burdens, Raises Budget Revenues

LD1908172396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 19 Aug 96

[By INTERFAX observer Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 19 (INTERFAX) — The presidential budget decisions made public on Monday have become a kind of expected sensation. All recent debates on how to prevent the looming budget crisis this fall came to the same conclusion. Russian President Boris Yeltsin simply had to do something about it.

However, the determination and uncompromisingness of the decisions is what aroused wonder. In particular, they abolished considerable privileges for a number of major industrial enterprises and deprived local authorities of the right to impose additional taxes.

For example, the presidential decree on measures to enforce economy in the budget performance in the second half of 1996 envisions the abolition or suspension of all expenditure-raising decisions on September 1, 1996.

The list of would-be privileged enterprises includes such giants as the Yelabuga Car Factory. This decision will save the budget about 120 billion rubles.

The decisions took the first step to closing the black hole of financing Chechnya's economic recovery as Yeltsin cancelled the government decision on urgent measures for developing the oil and gas complex of Chechnya. On the whole, the treasury will save over 30 trillion rubles thanks to this decree alone, chief of the government economics department Mikhail Kopeykin told Interfax.

The decrees on tougher state control over the turnover of alcoholic products and on measures to improve the collection of taxes depict a firm determination to begin at last to collect taxes where there is money rather than "under a spotlight."

To make sure everybody pays income tax, Yeltsin signed the decree regulating the collection of the income tax and insurance premiums from individuals. This document will put an end to many ways of tax evasion such as payment of salaries as interest on banking deposits.

However, Yeltsin did not limit himself to tough measures in the financial area alone and showed readiness to gradually ease the tax burden. The government is not yet ready to sacrifice a part of the budget, but Yeltsin dared to deprive local authorities of the right to impose additional taxes.

Local authorities created a mess as they imposed up to 10 local taxes not envisioned by the taxation law. For instance, some regional officials levied a tax on the maintenance of the local soccer team.

If adequately implemented, the presidential decrees will have a multi-trillion effect. In theory, they would enable the government to substantially reduce the profitability of T-bills, thus creating the most important precondition for redirecting investment money to the production sector. Moreover, the success of this innovation would help the government to avoid trouble with the IMF, which is unlikely to credit a government incapable of collecting taxes.

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Eight Edicts To Boost Budget Revenue

LD1908132596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1310 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 19 (ITAR-TASS) — President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin has signed eight decrees designed to boost the federal budget revenue, the press service of the head of state reported today.

The decree on urgent measures to ensure the economical regime in the execution of the budget in the second half of 1996 suspends the effect of all earlier decisions that entail increases in federal spending where those decisions were made after the federal budget for this year was endorsed.

Along with this, all the election campaign promises given by the president will be fulfilled. The decree mandates, in particular, to continue funding, in keeping with the established procedure, the spending envisaged by the presidential decrees concerning compensation to be paid to the pensioners, the extension of the effect of the presidential programme "Children of Russia," the encouragement of investment activity in the free economic zone Nakhodka, and the timely payment of pensions.

The president also decreed similar measures with respect to an entire range of the Russian government socially-oriented resolutions.

The other presidential decrees are designed to prevent tax evasion, improve collection of taxes towards the state extra-budgetary funds and particularly towards the state employment fund, as well as ensure unconditional compliance with tax legislation and strengthen state control over turnover of alcoholic products.

One of the decrees provides for taxation of added value of the goods originating in Ukraine. The document was

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issued to maintain stability of the Russian commodity market in conditions resulting from the scrapping by Kiev of the value added tax on its exports, the presidential press service said.

The press service recalled that Ukraine is not a party to the agreement signed by the governments of CIS member-countries on coordination of principles of their taxation policy.

Russia: Livshits Says IMF To Release 'Another Tranche' of Loan

LD1908132696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1301 GMT 19 Aug 96

[By Aleksandr Samozhnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Finance Minister Aleksandr Livshits said on Monday that Russia may count on another tranche of the loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Livshits told a news conference that during negotiations with the IMF mission in Moscow the sides "have just about exhausted the list of problems".

The Russian side has made everything possible to achieve a positive result, the minister emphasized.

Russia is expected to simultaneously receive the July and the August tranches of the loan.

Earlier, the IMF declined to release the July tranche of the loan worth 330 million dollars because of a low tax income in the state budget.

According to the programme of the IMF financing, Russia is to receive 10,2 billion dollars in 1996-1998.

The talks are conducted within the framework of a monthly monitoring of Russia's economic performance.

Russia: Livshits Gives First Press Conference as Finance Minister

MM1908151796 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Berger under the "Horse's Mouth" rubric: "Vice Premier Aleksandr Livshits: 'No Sign of Financial Disaster'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At his first press conference as vice premier and finance minister Aleksandr Livshits told journalists of his approaches and views regarding the sector of the government in his charge.

Regarding the Possibility of Financial Disaster

We have carefully analyzed all possible dangers — seasonal fluctuations, the servicing of the domestic debt, and others — no collapse is in prospect, the finance minister declared. All the factors that could cause increased strain in the financial sphere are well known, and we can prepare for them in advance. And I want to appeal to all who are predicting imminent financial disaster: Stop bleating!

Regarding His Personal Dream

My dream, Aleksandr Livshits disclosed, is for the Finance Ministry to have no visitors. It will cease having visitors only if the law on the budget is fulfilled unconditionally. We will provide whatever the law stipulates, and do not ask for anything that is not specified in the law, you will not get it. Then the Finance Ministry will have visitors only once a year — when the budget is being put together.

As for expenditure decisions already adopted on top of the budget, a special presidential edict on them is in preparation and will appear any moment now. The implementation of some decisions will be suspended until 1997, and it is proposed to revoke some decisions altogether. The total "value" of the decisions it is proposed not to implement in the current year is 50 trillion rubles. The resultant "savings" will be channeled into implementing expenditure envisaged by the budget.

Regarding Decisions Which Enter Force Retrospectively

The adoption of decisions that establish new forms of levies or new rules as from some moment long past is barbaric. But this practice continues to this day. The minister gave an assurance that it will be resolutely combated.

Regarding Plans for 1997

The draft budget for 1997 envisages inflation at the level of 10 percent per year.

Regarding Talks With the International Monetary Fund

I began to pursue this problem from my first hours in my new post, Aleksandr Livshits said. Today I can say that the situation is close to a positive solution.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: U.S. Official Cited on Lifting of Arms Trade Ban on Ukraine

MM1908135896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 15

[Unattributed report: "'Good Thing Too!' Says Department of State Spokesman About U.S. Arms Sales" — from the "Economic Union" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicholas Burns, the official Department of State spokesman, announced at a Washington briefing that the United States has lifted the ban on trade in the military sphere with Ukraine. "This means that there are now many areas relating to military supplies and defense technology, where trade with Ukraine will become possible and will be permitted," he stated.

According to N. Burns, this U.S. Administration decision is a "major step toward meeting Ukraine halfway" and is evidence of the development of a "very close relationship" between the two countries. "For the past three years relations have been one of the main U.S. priorities," N. Burns noted.

Burns was asked at the briefing whether it was normal that the United States is the leading arms supplier at the same time as being at the very bottom of the list of countries providing international aid.

"The United States approves of the arms trade, the trade in U.S. arms, when it is in our interests," Burns replied. "I do not think that the situation in which the United States, along with its European competitors, sells fighters, tanks, and other armaments is an unhealthy one. We sell weapons to our allies and friendly countries, and that is a good thing. We do this in the expectation that our weapons will ensure stability, military stability, in the regions where we sell them."

Slightly earlier the United States had lifted its ban on military trade with six former Soviet republics — Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The U.S. Government and U.S. private firms will now be able to conclude contracts with the seven states for the shipment of certain military products.

At the same time, the Department of State believes that some restrictions in the sphere of the arms trade with the former Soviet republics will remain in force. "Proposals from them regarding military shipments will be carefully analyzed in each specific instance by the appropriate U.S. Government departments to determine how far they comply with U.S. laws and meet the goals of our policy," N. Burns stated.

Ukraine: Prime Minister on Relations With Russia, Gas Deliveries

WS2008085296 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 16 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Olena Hubina on a meeting by Ukrainian Prime Minister Lazarenko with members of the Ukrainian Media Club in Kiev; date not given: "Prime Minister Knows Journalists by Name"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The prime minister willingly accepted this way [of conducting a meeting]. For more than one hour, the journalists asked difficult, and probably not always pleasant, questions, counting on a candid exchange of opinions. Later, however, they were sorry about that from the professional point of view, because they could not always recall all the cited figures and interesting facts. But a deal is a deal.

Nevertheless, 10 minutes of the "official" part allowed several journalists to ask questions "for later quotations." I would like to cite the most interesting questions and answers.

[Unidentified correspondent] How much freedom do you have in naming your own team during the formation of the government? Is it going to be a team of like-minded players or a group comprising various political forces? Do you think that the government is able to implement a truly nationwide economic policy?

[Lazarenko] You know that government members were selected based on their professional skills, the ability to work, and commitment. A great job has been done to involve all regions of the state. And most of the Ukrainian regions are represented in the government. The selection was made based exclusively on the ability to work, possibilities, and personal characteristics.

[Unidentified correspondent] You will soon be going to Moscow. What issues regarding Russia do you think are the most important?

[Lazarenko] Unfortunately, the process of economic relations and signing treaties, concluded in the first half of this year, was temporarily suspended recently. This happened because of objective reasons — first of all, the latest events in Russia, the elections.

What are the most important issues? You know that these are economic issues, the Black Sea Fleet issue, problems connected with signing the Fundamental Agreement [friendship and cooperation treaty], which is ready and only needs to be signed. At present, more than 18 economic accords with Russia are all ready and worked out by the Ukrainian and Russian sides. It is

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not only us who are interested in signing them. Russian ministers are also interested in them. The last time when I was in Moscow, there were different ministers coming over to me, including those in charge of the fuel and power engineering industries. They would say: Let us make a decision. It would allow both you and us to work.

[Unidentified correspondent] Recently, you met with Rem Vyakhirev, chairman of Russia's Gazprom. Obviously, on your visit to Moscow you will also raise the issue of Russian gas deliveries to Ukraine. At what stage is this issue now and what are its prospects?

[Lazarenko] The agreements and treaties that were reached in early 1996 comply with the position of both Gazprom and Ukrhazprom. At present, accounts are being settled in, I would say, a fairly satisfactory manner. In the first half of this year, they accounted for more than 96 percent of all payments. Issues that will need to be resolved in the immediate future include current repairs and radical overhaul of the transit system on Ukrainian territory. We discussed a possibility of using Russian capital. [end Lazarenko]

I would like to add that journalists particularly appreciated the prime minister's promise to prepare a special government resolution supporting the Ukrainian Media Club. Hopefully, he will not forget about the press. After all, it is not by coincidence that he knows not only the last names of some journalists, but also their first names.

Ukraine: Kiev Opposes Expansion of CIS Structures

LD2008084796 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0730 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya is to pay a working visit to Ukraine on 21 August. According to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, the official agenda of the visit is to hold talks in preparation for the meeting of CIS heads of state and government, to be held at the end of the year to mark the 5th anniversary of the Commonwealth. The ministry's officials add informally that Korotchenya's main purpose is to press for Ukraine's further integration into CIS structures.

Commenting on this, Serhiy Vorontsov, adviser to the Foreign Ministry's department for CIS problem analysis, said Ukraine had no intention of making any immediate changes in its cooperation with the CIS. According to Vorontsov, Ukraine continues to give priority to bilateral cooperation with CIS member states and opposes the expansion of the CIS supranational structure.

Another problem to be discussed during Korotchenya's visit, Vorontsov said, is the funding of existing CIS bodies. Ukraine regularly pays its 14 percent contribution to the CIS budget, in accordance with the quotas approved by member states. Some states, however, have not paid their contributions, which has posed problems for the funding and functioning of CIS bodies.

The CIS executive secretary also plans to discuss events planned in celebration of the CIS anniversary. He will arrive in Kiev after a visit to Chisinau, where he is currently holding talks with the Moldovan Government. He will then return to the CIS executive headquarters in Minsk.

Ukraine: Chechen Committee Set Up in Odessa; 14 More To Follow

WS2008074696 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 16 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Lyudmyla Hlushkovetska: "Speaking From Odessa, Yandarbiyev Unmasks 'Russian Bandits. Chechen President's Nephew Is the Leader of Ukrainian Vaynakhs'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "'The Vaynakh [as published] Congress in Ukraine' sees its primary goal as conveying to the world the truth about the events in Chechnya." This was stated at a news conference held at the editorial office of Odessa CHORNOMORSKI NOVYNY by Khalida Yandarbiyev, head of the organizational committee of "The Vaynakh Congress in Ukraine" public movement. The name of the leader is not a coincidence. Khalida is a nephew of Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, current president of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

The son of Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev's brother adds: "The 'victorious' Russian Army in fact is a demoralized formation of bandits who drink during the day and at night go hunting on their armored personnel carriers, break into peaceful households, rob, and kill."

According to him, Chechen guerrillas recently carried out successful operations to cleanse Groznyy of "bandits" and liberated several districts of the city. The Ichkeria leadership is ready to sit down at the negotiating table with Moscow at any moment. However, the Kremlin regularly breaks its promises to stop combat operations. For instance, the village of Gekhi was recently destroyed and 3,000 of its residents killed by artillery and air strafing, despite the fact that they were loyal to the Russian Federation troops.

Yandarbiyev pointed out that a week-long rally had been held in Groznyy to protest the expulsion of people from the Republic. "If the worst thing happens, all of us will

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return to our motherland to die as one nation, and not one by one."

In general, the "Vaynakh Congress" intends to launch the fight for human rights and organize relief for refugees. There are more than 20,000 [Chechen] refugees in Ukraine at this point. It should be added that the "Vaynakh Congress" established in Odessa is the first in Ukraine. Altogether, the Chechen diaspora is planning to set up similar committees in 14 regions of Ukraine.

Ukraine: Official Denies Ukrainian Mercenaries in Chechen Conflict

LD1908140696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 19 Aug 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Aug 19 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukraine considers the allegations that Ukrainian citizens are participating in the Chechen conflict as an attempt by some politicians to create a negative image of Ukraine and its people, Yuriy Sergeyev, director of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's information department, told Interfax-Ukraine on Monday.

He dismissed as groundless the statement by Russian Interior Troops Commander Anatoliy Shkirko that a group of 20-30 mercenaries from western Ukraine has been active in the Chechen capital Groznyy.

The official Russian structures, in particular the Federal Security Service, last year "tried to convince the general public that the Chechen problem was created by mercenaries," Sergeyev said, adding that Ukraine was among the countries mentioned in connection with this idea.

"The Russian side has never managed to respond to our official requests to confirm the alleged participation of Ukrainian mercenaries in the Chechen conflict," the Ukrainian diplomat said.

Ukraine considers such allegations as "libel," he said.

Doku Zavgayev, Moscow-backed head of the Chechen Republic, has recently said that between 300 and 400 Ukrainian mercenaries are fighting on the Chechen separatists' side, Sergeyev said.

"If such statements come from people vested with power we realize that they are fully responsible for what they say," he said, adding that "the Ukrainian side demands that this accusation be officially confirmed."

Ukraine: Kharkiv Plant Director Hails Pakistani Tank Sales Deal

MM1908150796 Kiev TRUD-7 in Russian 16-22 Aug 96 p 11

[Report on interview with Yu. Mirgorodskiy, general director of the Zavod Imeni Malysheva state enterprise, by correspondent Aleksandr Chepalov: "Our Tanks by Southern Seas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kharkiv — As has already been reported in the press, Ukraine has decided to sell Pakistan a consignment of tanks. Our Kharkiv correspondent asked Yu. Mirgorodskiy, general director of the Zavod Imeni Malysheva [Malyshev Plant] state enterprise, to comment on this.

"Our plant has received a large state order for the production of armored vehicles which we used to produce in the past," Yuriy Yakovlevich said. "The first consignment of tanks will be shipped to Islamabad as early as January. I would like to clarify one point: The report about the transfer of tank production technology to Pakistan was highly exaggerated: All that was involved was local production of fast-wearing parts, but even here no final agreement has been reached.

"The signing of this contract was preceded by a long competitive struggle between our seres-production T80UD [tank] and other producers' vehicles. The Ukrainian tank came out the winner. The Pakistani crews mastered what was for them new technology with relative ease, in a matter of a few days.

"I can add that our model is not simply reliable. The T80UD is a state-of-the-art tank which meets all requirements. It is also fairly easy to transport. Thus, two such vehicles fit easily into an Antey [Antheus An-22 transport plane].

"We have no doubt that the order will help our economy and will provide a certain amount of work for metallurgical plants, electronic industry enterprises, and also Russian associates.

"True, I would not want to lapse into unbridled optimism; although we have preserved our production capacities, alongside our traditional output we are obliged to produce carpets and even pasta products. The plant also does much to help municipal services and agriculture, the oil and gas industry, and the coal industry.

"During the enforced stoppage many first-rate specialists left us. In my desk there is a fat notebook with the addresses and telephone numbers of those who were obliged to change their place of work or even their profession. And I will be glad if real, promptly paid wages enable us to recreate a 'gold reserve' of experts.

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I don't think I'll be giving away any big secret if I say: There is a real possibility that this contract will lead to others."

National Affairs

Ukraine: Moroz Assures Crimea's Autonomy Rights

LD2008083696 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The adoption of the Ukrainian Constitution on the eve of the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence was the biggest achievement, which ended all speculation about the absence of a fundamental law in the country, said Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz during his visit to Krasnogvardeyskiy district in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Now the Ukrainian Parliament needs to amend about 60 different laws to bring them in line with the Constitution, the speaker said. But there are also a number of laws to be passed urgently, as they follow from the Constitution and will ensure its implementation in the legal field, he added.

Despite statements by some Ukrainian politicians, Section 10 of the Ukrainian Constitution, which concerns Crimea, grants the autonomy a much wider range of powers than any previous legislation, Moroz said. This section gives Crimea wide powers in the field of local and regional government.

Touching upon the forthcoming fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence, the speaker said the Supreme Council's Act of Independence was a necessary move at the time. It had to be done in order to distance Ukraine from dubious ventures undertaken in the center, that is, in Moscow.

Ukraine: State Offers Cash To Encourage Grain Sales

MM2008114396 Kiev TRUD UKRAINA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Kolinko under the "Topical Subject" rubric: "Unpaid Debts in Farmers' Granaries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The wheat in Ukraine's fields is ripe. If you discount the buckwheat, millet, and corn, the grain harvest is largely complete. But our country's granaries are not yet full. Only 25 percent of state order contracts to buy grain have been met, even though they are very modest in comparison with contracts in previous years.

But the grain is there. Maybe not 50 million tonnes, as in the best years, but 28 million tonnes of grain have been harvested. However, the chairmen of collective agricultural enterprises are in no hurry to take it to the elevators. Used to constant deception by the state, they are dragging their heels, waiting to see what will happen, and trying to choose a tactic that will allow them to increase their own farms' income, however modestly. After all, the state still has not paid some of them in full for last year's harvest — or even for the 1994 harvest in a few cases!

This year's state order is barely a quarter of what it was three years ago, at just 5 million tonnes. This is enough to supply the population with bread and establish the necessary strategic reserves. But in this poor harvest year farmers are thinking about their own future, literally treasuring every kilogram of grain and trying to extract the maximum benefit from it. After all, everything is becoming more expensive: equipment, spare parts, fuel, electricity.

Until the state order has been met, commercial operations with grain are prohibited. Whereas in the past a farm chairman could exchange one or two loads of wheat for fuel or mineral fertilizers, nowadays this is not allowed. No grain exchange, through which it would be possible to sell part of the harvest, is in operation. Since 1 August distilleries have stopped taking "customer-supplied" raw materials for processing. As a result, collective farms have been deprived of the possibility of producing grain alcohol and using that as "currency."

However, the state is not simply cracking the whip. Ukraine's cabinet of ministers has hastily adopted the decree "On the Procedure for Procuring Grain for State and Regional Resources." The government has assured farmers that they will not be deceived and that grain sent to state granaries will be paid for at average stock market prices. Ministry of Agriculture and Food enterprises are now permitted to buy grain for state resources with cash, which is extremely profitable and convenient for farmer-producers. The government has instructed the Finance Ministry, the Economy Ministry, and the National Agency for Reconstruction and Development to raise finance from external sources to buy grain for the state order. Finally, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Finance Ministry, and the National Bank have been instructed to open special "Harvest-97" accounts for agricultural enterprises supplying grain for the 1996 state order and to pay 30 percent of the revenue from the sale of the product into these accounts. The money may only be used to cover expenditures relating to next year's harvest.

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Economic Issues

Ukraine: Bank Adopts New Foreign Currency Purchase Regulations

MM2008090096 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 96 p 10

[Report by Eleonora Yakovleva: "The Ruble Will Be Put Up for Auction" — from the "Economic Union" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Bank of Ukraine has adopted new regulations for purchasing foreign currency on the interbank currency exchange. Resident legal entities are authorized to buy foreign currency on the interbank currency exchange only provided that they produce legally binding contracts for transferring the debt or fulfilling other obligations to nonresident legal entities.

Physical resident persons are authorized to buy currency on the exchange only provided that they possess legally binding contracts concluded with nonresident legal entities for a sum not exceeding $8,000 or its equivalent in another foreign currency at the National Bank's official rate on the day the contract was concluded.

In the future, the National Bank intends to consider a list of currencies approved for exchange transactions. The bank's exchange offices are presently authorized to exchange a total of 22 foreign currencies entered in the group of the National Bank of Ukraine classifications. Ukrainian banks will meet the needs for Russian rubles at special auctions held by the National Bank of Ukraine, because Russian rubles may be exported from Russia only by national banks of other countries that have licenses of the Central Bank of Russia.

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Belarus

Belarus: Defense Minister's Aide Views Draft Military Doctrine

WS2008112196 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 15 Aug 96 p 1

[Interview with Major General Yuryy Valyantinavich Partnow, Belarusian defense minister's aide for military policy, by Lieutenant Colonel A. Bezveselnyy; place and date not given: "Military Legislation Is a Matter of State Importance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During its July meeting, the Defense Ministry Collegium discussed and approved a draft of a new Belarusian military doctrine and a draft law "On Military Protection of Belarus" prepared by military experts. I want to remind you that a group of experts, representing all Defense Ministry primary administrations and offices, began to draft these documents in February in line with the relevant government decision.

VO SLAVU RODINY asked Major General Yuryy Partnow, Belarusian defense minister's aide for military policy, to comment in more detail on the legislative work performed by the Defense Ministry in the military area recently.

Our file: We present a list of primary normative legal acts addressing military issues in chronological order.

September 1991 — the Belarusian Supreme Soviet adopted the law "On Creation of Belarusian Armed Forces;"

March 1992 — the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Decree adopted the law "On the Belarusian Armed Forces;"

November 1992 — the Belarusian Supreme Soviet adopted the laws "On Defense," "On Compulsory Military Service;"

6 December 1992 — the Belarusian Supreme Soviet adopted the Belarusian military doctrine;

March 1994 — the Belarusian Supreme Soviet adopted the Belarusian Constitution;

April 1995 — the Belarusian Supreme Soviet adopted the Concept for National Security of Belarus;

The Belarusian Security Council has been considering a concept for military reform since the summer of 1995.

[Partnow] The drafting of a new military doctrine of Belarus was triggered by a need to bring the primary concepts for military policy in line with the current political and the military-political situation.

During the two years which passed since the Belarusian military doctrine was adopted, profound changes in the military-political situation also took place. The aspirations of the Visegrad Group to join the NATO military-political bloc and to locate nuclear weapons on its territory violate the balance of forces and the stability in Europe. This was mentioned by the Belarusian president repeatedly. Hence, the striving for neutrality, which is proclaimed in the current military doctrine, corresponds neither to the current military-political situation nor to Belarusian national interests.

[Bezveselnyy] Why?

[Partnow] No state in the modern world can currently protect its interests independently; therefore, states are striving toward uniting their efforts with other countries. Practically all traditionally neutral European states today regard their participation in regional security systems as a guarantee for the protection of their national interests. Despite their statements about neutrality, they successfully cooperate in economic, political, regional, and other associations and unions. At the same time, practically all of them participate in the "Partnership for Peace" NATO program and do not lag behind the "bloc" states in terms of the development of their national armed forces.

[Bezveselnyy] Is this path of development acceptable for Belarus?

[Partnow] Given modern conditions, creating a regional system of collective security is an objective need. As regards Belarus, it has already joined the CIS Collective Security Treaty and the Belarusian-Russian Community of Sovereign Republics has already been established.

[Bezveselnyy] What else did a group of experts consider while they drafted this sizable and important document?

[Partnow] When the new military doctrine of Belarus was drafted, primary tenets of the Constitution, concepts for Belarusian national security, international obligations undertaken by our state, as well as the current military-political situation were considered.

[Bezveselnyy] Could you name at least the primary tenets of this document?

[Partnow] The primary goal of Belarusian military policy is to maintain peace and stability in Europe, to prevent, eliminate and avert the threat of war, and to secure guarantees for Belarusian national security in the face of a potential military threat.

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Our country favors the creation of an all-embracing system of European security and regards its participation in it as an important component of its national security. Belarus assumes that — based on its national legislation and international law — it can participate in regional collective security systems in the military sphere.

[Bezveselnyy] What activities will be launched when a military threat emerges?

[Partnow] While condemning war as a means to implement one's politics and adhering to the principles of the nonuse of and threat to use force, Belarus postulates that its foreign activities are based on ensuring stability and security in Europe. At the same time, it reserves the right to take adequate measures against states, the policy of which is dangerous for Belarus in military terms, leads to the intervention in its domestic affairs, and infringes on its national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Belarus will use its Armed Forces only if an armed aggression is launched against it. Based on the CIS Charter and the CIS Collective Security Treaty, in order to repel a military aggression, belarus can turn to other states for assistance (including military).

[Bezveselnyy] Can nuclear and other types of weapons be used?

[Partnow] The draft doctrine demonstrates Belarus' attitude toward nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction, and toward its participation in the process of disarmament.

As is known, some time ago, Belarus — voluntarily and unilaterally — renounced its nuclear weapons and refused to use them in the interests of its foreign policy.

At the same time, as regards our Republic's activities on the international arena, it actively opposes the further proliferation of technologies for the production of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction. Our president confirmed this concept once again when he initiated the establishment of a nonnuclear zone stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

[Bezveselnyy] Yuryy Valyantinavich, what about conventional weapons?

[Partnow] Considering the defense capability and the military balance potential of European states, Belarus regards its participation in reducing the strength of troops and conventional weapons as the fulfillment of relevant international agreements and treaties addressing the reduction of general military danger. In conclusion, I can say that the draft doctrine also reflects military-economic aspects, the preparation of both the state and the people for military defense (or for war), the tasks and principles of the building and organization of the Armed Forces. Thus, the draft doctrine embraces all areas of state — not only of the Armed Forces — military activities.

[Bezveselnyy] What was the reason for drafting a new law "On Armed Protection of Belarus?"

[Partnow] The reasons are: the need to bring military legislation in line with changes in the state system, the creation of a national security system, and the emergence of new military- political management bodies. This is what the Defense Ministry tried to implement.

[Bezveselnyy] What is the essence of the new draft law?

[Partnow] The draft law "On Armed Protection of Belarus" comprises seven sections.

The first section addresses the principles and the organization of state military protection.

The second section formulates the functions of state power and administration bodies; obligations of enterprises, institutions, and organizations in the sphere of the armed protection of the country.

The third section covers economic, material, and financial issues in the framework of military protection of Belarus.

The fourth section defines the status of and the recruitment of manpower for the Belarusian Armed Forces.

The fifth section addresses procedures to declare a state of war, to announce and end the war, to introduce martial law, to carry out mobilization, as well as to organize territorial and civic defense.

The sixth section addresses procedures for fulfilling the norms of international law and for military cooperation with other states.

The seventh section defines the accountability of officials and citizens for violating this law.

[Bezveselnyy] What will happen next?

[Partnow] Documents drafted by the Defense Ministry have been submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers and if they are approved in all instances, it is quite possible that they will be discussed by the Supreme Soviet at its second session.

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Belarus: General Cited on Revised Military Doctrine Concept

MM2008104196 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev: "Belarusian Military Doctrine in Need of Correction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk — A draft new concept of the military doctrine has been approved at a session of the republic's Ministry of Defense Collegium and submitted to the government.

The first military doctrine of the sovereign Belarusian state was adopted in December 1992. What has occasioned the need to revise it?

According to one of the drafters of the draft — Major General Yuriy Portnov, assistant minister of defense of the Republic of Belarus for questions of military policy — the present doctrine is lagging considerably behind the realities. Some of its provisions are in need of thorough correction. This is associated primarily with the desire, prevalent in a number of East European countries, to join the NATO bloc. According to our assessments, Portnov declared, the implementation of such plans will inevitably lead to the disruption of the existing balance of forces on the European continent. In this situation the republic's desire for neutrality "does not correspond to the actual military-political situation and the national interests of Belarus."

To a certain extent, the general pointed out, we have now gotten away from this principle, having subscribed to the CIS states' Collective Security Treaty and created the Community of Russia and Belarus with special relations. This, incidentally, is an objective necessity: Not a single state in the modern world is in a position to reliably defend its interests on its own. Of course, Belarus cannot remain aloof from objective processes either. The draft new doctrine permits its "participation in a system of collective security in the military sphere."

The new edition of the military doctrine has significantly expanded and elaborated questions of the state's military-economic and military preparation for a possible war and the tasks and principles of the building and training of the armed forces. At the same time it confirms the principles, enshrined in the previous document, of Belarus' unconditional renunciation of possession of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction and of the dissemination of the technology of their production.

Belarus: Patriotic Movement Supports Referendum Proposal

WS2008094096 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Belarusian Patriotic Movement Party supports President Lukashenka's initiative to amend specific sections of Belarus' Constitution. This should and can be done only by the nation. The patriots call on all citizens of the Republic to actively engage in preparing and holding the referendum on 7 November 1996, which is the supreme manifestation of people's rule and social justice.

Moldova

Moldova: Presidential Election Campaign Officially Begins 19 Aug

LD1908175896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1532 GMT 19 Aug 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] A presidential election campaign officially started on Monday [19 August].

On this day the Central Electoral Commission begins registration of candidates who are to stand in the November 17 election. After being registered, candidates will be allowed to launch their election campaigns.

Candidates can be nominated no earlier than 90 days and no later than 30 days before the election, Commission chairman Petru Railean told Interfax.

The right to nominate candidates is given to political parties and other public or political organizations registered before the election date was set, to electoral blocs registered within 15 days after the Central Electoral Commission was appointed, and to action committees each of which must have at least 25 members with the right to vote.

A registration application to be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission needs to be supplemented with the signatures of a minimum of 20,000 supporters of the candidate which have been obtained in at least one-third of Moldova's cities and towns. One can give one's signature for only one candidate.

Other papers to be presented for registration are minutes of a meeting of an organization's supreme body at which the candidate was nominated, his personal details, a declaration of his incomes for the preceding two years, and a health certificate issued to him by a medical commission appointed by the Central Electoral Commission.

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After registration the candidate is allowed to campaign for himself and against his rivals. The law gives all candidates equal rights in the use of mass media and in obtaining material and technical facilities for their campaigns.

A draft budget sets election expenditure at 16 million lei (about $3.8 million), but the Finance Ministry proposes approximately halving the sum, a Central Electoral Commission source told Interfax. No sum has yet been approved.

The candidates nominated so far are current President Mircea Snegur, Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli, Parliamentary Chairman Petru Lucinschi, leader of the opposition Party of Democratic Forces Valeriu Mate, Former Security Minister Anatol Plugaru, parliamentary deputy Maricica Levitcaia, film director Emile Loteanu and director of the State Department for Ethnic Relations Veronica Abramceuc.

Moldova: Dniester Forces Differ Over Participation in Elections

AU1908181796 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 17 Aug 96

[Commentary: 'Political Confrontations in Tiraspol Conditioned by Presidential Campaign in Moldova']

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 16/08/1996 (BASAPRESS) — The report of forces on the Dniester political arena and Tiraspol's attitude to the negotiations with the current Chisinau leadership are influenced by one additional factor — the presidential elections in Moldova.

Grigore Maracuta, chairman of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, pronounced himself in favour of Dniester's participation in elections. It is true that he did not specify whether he agreed to form the vote sections on the left bank of Dniester or the Dniester inhabitants may depart to the opposite bank.

One certain thing is that the hue and frequency used to resume the statements on possible involvement of the eastern districts in the presidential polls show the Dniester speaker's readiness to accept maximal compromises. As a result, Maracuta became the aim of bitter attacks by the extreme leftist forces. The Cossacks, Women Strike Committee and other parties which claim to be patriotic forces stated they oppose the holding of the presidential elections in Dniester.

Moreover, the criticism launched by the Tiraspol government structures against the parliament intensified, the sharpness, according to local observers, being caused by Maracuta's loyal stand to the future elections in Moldova.

In this context, the Tiraspol Parliament's decisions are disputed, in particular the law on Dniester's budget. The government-loyal press launched appeals on the fitness to "set up the order" and strengthen "the healthy forces of Dniester" around the law-protecting bodies, in particular the security headed by General Antyufeyev Shevtsov.

Despite the fact that the Tiraspol leader Igor Smirnov did not make public his attitude toward the presidential elections in Moldova, Shevtsov pronounced himself in favour of Dniester's participation in the polls, stating that, thus, Tiraspol will favour the recognition of the Dniester Republic on the international arena. The stand of Shevtsov, who is considered by many analysts as Tiraspol's most uncompromising representative, has common points with Maracuta's option, because the both extreme edges of the Dniester political segment count upon the influence, if not decisive, then an important influence of those 480,000 voters from the eastern districts on the polls' results.

Thus, Tiraspol might obtain the possibility to determine legally the political state from Chisinau in its advantage. Concerning the attacks addressed to the Parliament, the observers think they might represent a sign of interior struggle for the right to become important partner of the future Moldovan president.

Quite successful seem to be the pressures by the Tighina (Bender) administration upon the police department subordinated to Chisinau. The maintenance of an almost explosive state of things may be viewed, according to analysts, as an electoral action. Even if Tiraspol did not make public yet its preference, the politician who will not enjoy this support is already known.

Moldova: 5-6 Candidates Likely To Run For Presidency

AU2008081496 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 19 Aug 96

[Commentary: 'Moldovan Presidential Post To Be Contested by No More Than 10 Candidates']

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A presidential election campaign was officially launched in Moldova on Monday [19 August]. Since today, the Moldovan population, called by politicians in no other way but "the people," are becoming "the electorate." And the electorate needs a special attitude too. In previous times, the citizens felt themselves voters only on election days, or, at best, during their pre-election meetings with candidates. Nowadays, they have been feeling this much earlier: Candidates need to raise 20,000 signatures in order to be officially registered and to begin their pre-election marathon.

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Twenty thousand is not such a great figure even for such a small country as Moldova. But there are some specific nuances.

Out of some 4.5 million citizens living in Moldova, there were only about 2.4 million voters registered at the 1994 parliamentary elections and 1995 local elections. Approximately 150,000 of them reside in Dniester. The above-mentioned signatures are supposed to be raised from not less than one-third of districts, cities and towns. At calculating the signatures, only those localities shall be considered valid where a minimum of 1,000 signatures have been raised. If one takes into consideration that each voter can sign only for one candidate, then it becomes quite clear that the struggle for signatures is going to be very tough.

Understanding this, candidates' support teams began traveling to various localities long before August 19, demonstrating a vivid interest about resident lists in housing offices and at local power bodies in villages. And political circles have been spreading rumours about a possibility of appearance of commercial structures to raise and trade the signatures, like the ones that emerged in Russia only a few months ago.

At any rate, observers admit that the world-renowned practice of signature raising is quite suitable for Moldova as a method of filtering off reckless politicians who are seeking to try their "strength" even in situations when they realize their chances are next to zero. In that sense, one can only regret that the minimal number is only 20,000 signatures, not 100,000 or at least 50 thousand, as was envisaged by the initial draft of the election law.

One can state with confidence that the 20,000 barrier will be easily overcome by the current president Mircea Snegur, who has been actively using the well-developed local structures of his Party of Revival and Accord [PRCM], as well as the assistance of a lot of smaller parties and movements backing him.

Approximately the same story is with Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli [of the] Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova (PDAM). And although some regional structures of the Agrarian Democratic Party have come to support President Snegur or Parliament Chairman Lucinschi, the ruling party is still strong enough to raise the required number of signatures.

There is no doubt whatsoever that Petru Lucinschi will be registered as an independent candidate as well. He is fairly popular in this republic, and enjoys sympathies of a big part of Chisinau residents. Besides them, Lucinschi is supported by several left-wing parties (the Social Democratic Party and the Party of Social Progress), by several structures of the Agrarian Democratic Party (the recent Statement of 45 members of the PDAM Ungheni district subdivision is a bright, and perhaps not the last example of that), by several youth organizations, and some influential business structures and the media. Quite confident about his strength is the chairman of the Party of Democratic Forces [PFD], Valeriu Matei, who has remained the only candidate from the right-wing opposition — the forces that make no secret of their struggle for Moldova's unification with Romania. The PFD has failed to build normal business-like relations with two other movements pursuing similar political objectives — the Christian Democratic Popular Front [FPCDM] and the Alliance of Democratic Forces [AFD]. Matei and his party have remained in a proud solitude, counting on no support of other parties which, driven by tactical considerations, have decided to back more realistic candidates, first and foremost President Mircea Snegur.

Despite that, the PFD with its structures available in all Moldovan districts feels no doubts that their candidate, Valeriu Matei, will face no problems in signature raising. Moreover, most party members are sure their chairman will pass to the second round of voting.

Most observers believe, all of the 4 above candidates have chances to pass to the second round of voting, and it is very likely that Moldova will really have two rounds, with Matei quite able to spring a surprise.

As for other applicants for the high post, their desire to become the head of state can be described with using the known Olympic quotation — that the chief thing is not the victory but the participation, or, perhaps, a more commonplace principle: If I fail to catch them up, I'll at least get warmed up.

In that case, the 20,000 barrier may only be for their good. Even in case they fail to overcome it, the candidates will be insured against useless wasting of state financial means, and against a necessity to repay the money should they decided to withdraw their candidature (even in favour of another candidate).

Naturally enough, this would save much money allocated for financing each candidate's election campaign. At shaping the campaign budget, the Central Electoral Commission proceeded from the assumption that as many as 10 candidates would be registered. Even now, 90 days before the election date, one can say with confidence there will be less than that number of applicants.

Alongside with the above-mentioned 4 names, intent to run for the presidency has been stated by 5 more people who have already been working actively, forming their support teams, and getting prepared for signa-

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ture raising. These are the ex-minister of security Anatol Plugaru, who headed the sensitive ministry at the times of the Dniester armed conflict, and is currently a military pensioner; Parliament deputy Maricica Levitschi; renowned film producer Emil Loteanu; Director of the State Department for National Relations Veronica Abramciuc and academician Nicolae Andronatii.

By law, any Moldovan citizen has a right to submit appropriate documents and get registered as a candidate before October 18. In reality, however, it is very unlikely that an unknown person can provide 20 thousand signatures, unless he or she has prepared an appropriate soil for that — very long in advance.

The 5 candidates of "the second echelon" show no doubts about their success — at least in words. In deeds, all the five will definitely come to face considerable difficulties, and several of them may not overcome the signature raising barrier. Each one of them realizes this, but everybody is pursuing his or her own goals, acting either for him(her)self, or against one of the leading Trinity.

Thus, Anatol Plugaru is counting on his popularity in law-enforcement organs, and is seeking to create in voters' minds the image of "Moldovan Lebed" — fighter for justice. In case of success, Plugaru is likely to withdraw his candidacy in favour, most probably, of Petru Lucinschi. And though he denies this, his support team have been canvassing simultaneously for Plugaru and Lucinschi. They fully realize that Plugaru may count on very modest chances for success, because Moldovans remember both his merits and political sins. Besides that, Plugaru himself has quite little to tell to his voters. During his first meeting with the media earlier this summer he looked excellent. However, at the second one he was quite weak, because it is impossible to win much only by criticizing government's mistakes in resolving the Dniester dispute.

The academician Andronatii's attempt to re-emerge at the political arena looks equally poor. A former parliament deputy and an ex-prime minister, he has nothing special to make people remember him for long. He is a good man and a prominent scientist, but this is yet insufficient to become a president. That is why the academician is being regarded as a candidate making a play for somebody of the leading trio.

Approximately the same situation is with Veronica Abramciuc, who became — quite unexpectedly for everybody — director of the State Department for National Relations. One year ago, observers were regarding her promotion as the peak of her career, but, as the saying goes, one leg of mutton helps down another. Her stake on the Russian-speaker population and on pushing Russian up to the level of an official language can hardly be justified. This brought a success to the Socialist Party at the latest parliamentary elections. But the times have changed since then, and the left-minded electorate will again vote for "more reliable" candidates — Lucinschi or Sangheli, in order to avoid the risk of having, say, Snegur and Matei at the second round of voting. That is why Abramciuc's attempt to become president is, rather, a wish to revenge her former party comrades — the Senic-Morev group.

The other competing lady, Maricica Levitchi, is also acting to spite all other competitors. By participating in the election campaign, she is seeking to revenge everybody — agrarian democrats for their refusal to appoint her chair of a parliamentary committee, Snegur for his empty promises to appoint her to a high position in his Party of Revival and Accord, and Lucinschi and Sangheli for other offences. This lady has long ago begun her election campaign, and in order to stir herself up she even stood up with a statement demanding to raise the registration quota from the current 20,000 signatures to 300,000, fully understanding that the train had long gone.

Another revenge seeker is Emil Loteanu. First and foremost, he wants to 'punish' President Snegur for his having offended a newspaper which backs Loteanu. Other objects of Loteanu's projected revenge are "all the rest" — for their scornful attitude to arts and culture, and for their refusal to finance film making.

It is well known that anger and desire to revenge are bad companions for a politician. Meanwhile, ambitions remain ambitions, but the current Moldovan reality suggests that there will hardly be more than 5-6 officially registered candidates for the presidency.

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Armenia

Armenia: Constitutional Court Head, U.S. Officials Sign Accord

NC1908123796 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 0823 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, August 19 (Noyan Tapan) — Chairman of the Armenian Constitutional Court Gagik Harutiunyan, USAID's Representative for the Caucasus Fred Winch and the US Ambassador to Armenia Peter Tomsen signed August 16 a memorandum on cooperation.

The memorandum sealed aims at defining the frames of preliminary assistance being rendered to the Constitutional Court by the United States Agency for International Development. The assistance rendered by the USAID is first of all designated for improvement of the Constitutional Court's work and includes shipment of equipment, providing of scientific and technical information, organization of courses and conferences, implementation of educational ties, etc.

Mr. Harutiunyan thanked the Embassy of the United States in Yerevan and USAID for the assistance rendered to the Armenian Constitutional Court from the first day of its establishment. The Embassy of the United States believing that the role of the Constitutional Court is rather important for the development of democracy and ensuring the rule of law organized an official visit of the Constitutional Court's delegation to the USA. The visit was preceded by preparation of a program which was considered by the US State Department and USAID in Washington. This resulted in signing of a memorandum which, according to Harutiunyan, envisages not only resolution of concrete problems but also long-term cooperation."

US Ambassador to Armenia Peter Tomsen, noting the importance of the Constitutional Court in the matter of protection of a personality and integrity of the Constitution from various abuses by the authorities, said that a special working group had been set up with the aim to develop cooperation between the Armenian Constitutional Court and the US Government. The group headed by Mr. Harutiunyan and made up of representatives of the US Embassy, USAID, USIS discussed various trends of judicial reform in Armenia. "The Government of the United States is ready for further cooperation", Ambassador Tomsen stressed.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Aliyev, U.S. Representatives Discuss Porter Amendment

NC2008064496 Baku TURAN in English 0942 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU/19.08.96/TURAN: Today president Geydar Aliyev received the US congressmen Greg Laughlin, Jim Chapman and Bill Brewster.

During the meeting Geydar Aliyev noted that a lot of objective articles on the Azerbaijan and on the Azeri-Armenian conflict appeared in the American press lately. "They testify positive changes in the public opinion of Americans about Azerbaijan," Geydar Aliyev said. At the same time he expressed concern about the amendment of the congressman Porter.

"At the time when our territorial integrity and sovereignty have been officially recognised by the US, the amendment of Porter presents Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent structure," the president said. He considers that this amendment is "an aggression against sovereignty of Azerbaijan." The president highly appreciates the activity of the official circles of the US and the friends of Azerbaijan in the Congress. He expressed a hope that conciliatory commission of the Congress would take final just decision concerning Azerbaijan.

He said also that Azerbaijan wishes peace with Armenia and is ready to provide security guarantees for Nagorno-Karabakh within the borders of Azerbaijan. The president said that the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh is not real. The world, as well as Russia and the US understand that well, Geydar Aliyev said.

Congressman Greg Laughlin said that Jim Chapman and Bill Brewster had been dealing in the oil and gas, pipeline and energy problems. According to him, these congressmen are of great opinion about Azerbaijan and in the near future they will appeal to the US Congress with request to decline section 907 to the Freedom Support Act, and not to allow adoption of the amendment of Porter.

Congressmen said that on return home, they are going to organise a special group for support of the line of Washington for strategic partnership with Azerbaijan. In particular, congressmen Chapman noted that forthcoming 4-5 weeks will be decisive concerning the amendment of Porter and advised the president of Azerbaijan to make pressure on political circles of the USA. The congressmen Brewster said that most members of the US Congress do not have even slightest idea about Azerbaijan.

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The president of Azerbaijan wished that Congressmen Chapman and Brewster were reliable friends of Azerbaijan like a congressman Lafrin.

Today Chapman and Brewster are leaving for the US.

Azerbaijan: Security Officials Deny Uranium Smuggling Report

NC2008063096 Baku TURAN in English 0635 GMT 19 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU/19.08.96/TURAN—On August 18 the Russian television company NTV, referring to the Azeri press broadcast that a group of scientists in Azerbaijan tried to send abroad four kilos of uranium. According to NTV the scientists had been arrested and a proceeding was instituted.

However high-ranking sources in the prosecution, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Security of Azerbaijan categorically refuted this information of NTV as the wrong one.

Georgia

Georgia: Shevardnadze Interviewed on Economy, Budget, Abkhazia

LD1908122596 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0514 GMT 19 Aug 96

[Interview with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani; intercepted in progress — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Shevardnadze] The implementation of measures envisioned by the main guidelines for regulating the population's incomes will be greatly assisted by the decision made at the government meeting to increase the salaries of one section of employees paid from the state budget, primarily people working in education, as early as September this year. As you said, we are talking about doubling their salaries. This will affect 140,000-150,000 people, including professors, teachers, and others in the same group. [passage omitted]

The salaries of other employees paid from the state budget are also expected to rise substantially next year. Socially unprotected sections of society, pensioners, refugees, and others will also be given substantial aid. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that for the first time next year's budget is to provide for the allocation of substantial aid to the population of conflict zones — the Tskhinvali region, Gali district, and Kodori Gorge. [passage omitted]

The authorities intend to continue taking further steps toward the development of relations with international organizations and foreign relations in general. In this respect, there is an inexhaustible, huge potential in relations with the European Union. U.S. programs are to be implemented. The possibilities associated with Russia, Ukraine, and some other states are to be used actively, as well as opportunities for the entry and establishment on the markets of these countries.

The Committee for Socioeconomic Information summed up the results of the country's industrial performance in the first seven months of this year. Industrial output growth amounted to 5.5 percent, exceeding the figure for the first six months by 1.5 percent. Excluding from the total the output of flour mills—which were operating in conditions of rising grain supply—industry growth reached 19 percent. Output growth in Tbilisi amounted to 5 percent. High growth in industrial output was recorded in Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli, Guria, Samegrelo and Zemo Svaneti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Racha-Lechkhumi, and Kvemo Svaneti Provinces. Meanwhile, production continued to fall in Ajaria and in Imereti Province. Performance figures deteriorated in Kakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti Provinces as well. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] The cancelled meeting between yourself and [South Osetian leader Ludvig] Chibirov was again at the center of attention last week. Ludvig Chibirov's well-publicized interview [with the Russian newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] was said to be one of the main reasons for the cancellation. You have already expressed your views about it.

[Shevardnadze] All that I said about meetings with Ludvig Chibirov and [Abkhaz leader] Vladislav Ardzinba, that they should be held after the necessary preparation, remains in force.

[Oniani] You must be referring to your statement?

[Shevardnadze] Of course. I think that some corrections have been made, certain things were exaggerated. All of this will improve, I think.

Speaking about these meetings, the main thing is that the sides should not be looking at the idea of a meeting as a time-winning or time-wasting opportunity. We must not forget that hundreds of thousands of people and almost all countries of the world have an interest in the results of these meetings. Meanwhile, a true leader must not be indifferent to the fate of even a single citizen. I think that this will be our approach at these meetings.

[Oniani] Last week was the fourth anniversary of the start of the war in Abkhazia. We all remember this date, 14 August 1992. The Georgian defense minister spent the day of the fourth anniversary at a meeting in Moscow where CIS members again discussed the

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problem of Abkhazia. Much has been said and written about this war and its results and much will be said about it in the future.

Another interesting report that came out last week, or maybe even earlier, was that Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov and Georgia's ambassador to Russia, Vazha Lortkipanidze, together will visit Abkhazia in the near future.

[Shevardnadze] I have spoken a lot about the Abkhaz conflict. By the way, I hope that it may soon be possible to publish all of the Georgian president's addresses, interviews, and assessments concerning the Abkhaz conflict. I think that such a selection of material must be available.

As I have said before, the preparation for this war began a long time ago. You can read [St. Petersburg Mayor] Anatoliy Sobchak's book, excerpts from which are being reprinted in [the Georgian newspaper] SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA, and you will see that the cause of the 9 April tragedy [the killing of pro-independence demonstrators in Tbilisi in 1989] was another provocative move by Abkhaz separatists concerning demands for Abkhazia's secession from Georgia.

As I have said more than once, the army was not sent to Abkhazia for war. A detailed plan was drawn up envisioning the protection of railroads, bridges, and roads. Unfortunately, our celebrated commander [Tengiz Kitovani] did not carry out the main idea of that plan. After blood was spilled there were still attempts to stop the hostilities. That was what sensible Georgians and Abkhazians wanted. By the way, that was also what the Russian leadership wanted at the time.

[Oniani, interrupting] You have said that twice you had a telephone conversation with Yeltsin, if I am right.

[Shevardnadze] Yes, there were several such conversations. Unfortunately, the disobedience of commanders and their guerrilla mentality came to the fore. This senseless and aimless war led to the genocide of Georgians and to thousands of human casualties. Tens of thousands of homes were burned down or destroyed. The Abkhazians suffered irreplaceable losses. Terrible pain was inflicted on the Georgian people. Russians, Armenians, Greeks, Jews, and others living in Abkhazia, some of whom are still there, had their lives turned upside down.

Now, we should get over the results of this bloody conflict and rectify the situation as quickly as possible. I think that both sides have matured for such an approach. At the talks, certain rational elements emerged in the Abkhazian stance. Russia significantly stepped up its mediating role.

As you said, Pastukhov's visit to Gali district will be important. Other senior officials may accompany him on the trip. Vazha Lortkipanidze will also be with him, and a group from here will probably go there as well. It is also important that the mandate of the peacekeeping forces has been changed to cover all of Gali district. The latest UN resolution played an important role in this. You know how much we worked for this resolution to be as comprehensive as it is. Statements at the CIS summit also played an important role. I would especially stress the sound position of the North Caucasian leaders concerning the peaceful settlement of the conflict, which they expressed at a meeting in Nalchik. The group of Georgia's friends is also doing a great deal of productive work.

In short, Georgians and Abkhazians are gradually coming closer to the threshold of peace, peaceful coexistence, and restoration of the best traditions between the two peoples. I would like to finish my answer to your question on this relatively optimistic note. [passage omitted]

Georgia: Abkhazian Leader Voices 'Readiness' To Meet Shevardnadze

LD2008085896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0830 GMT 20 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUKHUMI, Aug 20 (Interfax) — Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba has voiced readiness to meet Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze.

In a statement issued Tuesday [20 August] he agreed with the Georgian leader that their meeting is not a goal in itself but a necessary step to settle the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

Ardzinba said he closely studied the August 11 suggestion of Shevardnadze to continue negotiations. However, he found no need for such calls because he and the rest of Abkhazia's leaders "have never refused to hold constructive talks."

Ardzinba said Sukhumi is ready to continue constructive talks in the spirit of the April 4, 1994, declaration of the sides to the conflict, the United Nations, the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and Russia on a political settlement. "Any attempts to depart from the principles of relations between Abkhazia and Georgia declared in it will not produce positive results," he said.

The Abkhazian leader regretted what he described as the continuing attempts of the Georgian side to revise the declaration. In his opinion the August 11 statement by Shevardnadze reflects the same tendency.

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"In addition to the routine groundless accusations of aggressive separatism and ethnic purges Shevardnadze's statement contained a timid attempt to recognize one's responsibility for the developments which arouses certain optimism," Ardzinba said.

Georgia: Officials Urge Withdrawal of Russian Border Guard

MM2008095996 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov: "Georgia Is Ready To Police Its Own Borders....Admittedly, Only in Words...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi — Revaz Adamiya, chairman of the republic's parliamentary committee for defense and security, has issued a statement to the effect that Georgia is ready to police its borders in the Georgian-Turkish sector. In his words, repeated incidents, when Russian border guard troops at checkpoints in Vale and Sarpi have blocked the transit of Georgian goods, are forcing Tbilisi to review the Russian-Georgian Treaty on the Joint Protection of the State Borders.

The situation regarding Russian border guards in Georgia is indeed peculiar, and provides serious food for thought on the security of the CIS' southern borders. Supposing that the disintegrative processes, on which some members of the republic parliament and certain persons in the executive structures insist, prevail, it can be boldly claimed that the border with Turkey would exist only on paper. Today Georgia finds it difficult to keep up even the partial funding of joint border protection measures.

Evidently, some people in the republic do not take kindly to the presence of Russian "green caps" [border guard troops], especially at checkpoints. The "champions" of state interests are ready to make all borders open and transparent, caring little for the possible consequences.

It is not superfluous to recall that the immutability of the Treaty on the Joint Protection of Borders was confirmed yet again during the most recent meeting between Army General Andrey Nikolayev and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze.

As for the situation on the border itself, Major General Mikhail Krylovskiy, commander of Caucasian Special Border District's "Georgia" troops group, said that Russian border guards are continuing to perform their assigned tasks and will "hold" the border for as long as it is regulated by bilateral agreements.

Georgia: Russian Serviceman Wounded by Mine in Abkhazia

LD2008111796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1016 GMT 20 Aug 96

[By Irina Shchyogoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOCHI, August 20 (Itar-Tass) — An armoured personnel carrier of Russian peacekeepers set off an anti-tank mine in Abkhazia in early hours on Tuesday.

One serviceman was taken to the hospital with severe injuries.

The Abkhazpress news agency told Itar-Tass that the accident happened in the Gali district of Georgia's breakaway enclave of Abkhazia.

The district is a safe area in control of CIS peacekeepers.

The Abkhazian news agency asserted that the mine was set by a Georgian saboteur group which infiltrated into the region from the Zugdidi district of Georgia.

Georgia: Unofficial Abkhaz Death Toll Totals Over 32,000

AU2008111196 Tbilisi KAVKASIONI in Georgian 15-16 Aug 96 p 1

[IPRINDA report: "Statistics Concerning the Abkhazian Tragedy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to figures—which change almost every day—from the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights attached to the Abkhazian Supreme Council, during the fighting in Abkhazia, the Georgian side lost more than 4,000 civilians and more than 1,000 civilians, and around 1,000 soldiers are missing. There are currently around 300,000 Georgian refugees from Abkhazia.

However, according to unofficial figures received from reliable sources, more than 10,000 civilians, more than 8,000 soldiers, and also around 12,000 Abkhazian gunmen perished during the war.

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